

# THE GATEWAY

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## LGBTQ lectureship begins at the U of A

CATLIN CRAWSHAW  
News Editor

A campus group has organized a year-long lecture series on LGBTQ research for students and staff at the U of A, the first of its kind on campus.

Inside/Out's lecture series will feature talks from academics in the social sciences doing queer research at the U of A. Like the lecture series, the organization is new to campus, formed last year with the goal of bringing together lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer (LGBTQ) graduate students, academics and staff at the University.

Kris Wells and Marjorie Woonham, Inside/Out's founders, wanted the organization to be a means of connecting queer researchers on campus as well as a support system for LGBTQ people at the U of A. They designed the lecture series with this goal in mind.

PLEASE SEE LECTURE • PAGE 2



THE VIBRANCE OF ITALY A woman people-watches inquisitively. Turn to page 14 for a full photo feature of an unforgettable Italian experience.

MATT FRIEHR

## 6300 more species face extinction: study

NICOLE TOMLINSON  
News Writer

The number of species threatened or endangered is much larger than previously thought, found a research paper in the current edition of Science.

The study, led by Dr Lian Pin Koh of the National University of Singapore, was based on the Red List—a list of endangered and threatened species

maintained by the World Conservation Union, an international institute for the sharing of environmental science research. The study compiled extensive data on thousands of species across the globe dependent on the Red List species for their own survival.

"Of the 9000 species of hosts that we got good data on, 6300 affiliate species are co-endangered along with them; in other words, would go extinct if

their hosts went extinct," explained U of A researcher Dr Heather Proctor, one of the contributors to the study.

They also discovered that at least 200 species that were dependent on extinct hosts have already disappeared.

Most of the species they examined were smaller organisms including insects such as wasps and butterflies, as well as some parasites.

PLEASE SEE EXTINCTION • PAGE 2

## Campus 5-0 provides new way to protect textbooks

ALAN CLIFF  
News Writer

In a bid to curb the growing trend of property theft in general, and textbook banditry in particular, Campus Security has recently launched a Textbook Identification Program in conjunction with University Bookstores.

"On campus, the biggest problem that we have in terms of crime is theft of property, and that includes personal property like textbooks and bicycles," said Sergeant Grace Berry of Community and Crime Prevention Services.

Throughout the Week of Welcome, the University of Alberta Bookstores distributed Campus Security's "Protect your textbooks" bookmarks.

These bookmarks encouraged students to write a student ID or Driver's License number on the front inside cover, and again on any page inside of the book. The details of these numbers can then be registered at a St. Albert RCMP website, personalpropertyregistry.com.

In the event that a textbook is recovered, police across Canada have access to the uploaded information. Bicycles, CD players, and other items can also

be registered in the same manner.

Campus Security has also been speaking in classrooms across campus about this and other issues. A significant portion of textbook theft victimizes those who leave their books unattended on library tables or in study carrels, Berry explained.

**"On campus the biggest problem that we have in terms of crime is theft of property, and that includes personal property like textbooks and bicycles."**

SERGEANT GRACE BERRY,  
CAMPUS SECURITY SERVICES

He said more attentiveness in this regard could go a great distance in reducing theft, even at the expense of personal convenience.

"It's partly up to students and staff to take responsibility for the safety and security of their environment," said Berry.

PLEASE SEE TEXTBOOKS • PAGE 2



FROZEN BIRDS! These cold creatures were once the hosts to many small species. If these guys die so do their friends.

## Inside

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**13** is Edmonton really as "world class" as Bill Smith claims? Or is it just a northern wasteland? David Berry and Kristine Owram debate, that very issue today in the pages of Opinion.

## From the Archives

Course packs were born around this time in 1965, providing an alternative to expensive textbooks. The Students' Union voted for the initiative, and planned to work with the University of Alberta to distribute the course packs via the bookstore. Initial start-up costs ranged between \$40,000—\$50,000 of the cost would come from the University of Alberta. The SU viewed it as a new source of revenue, and hoped to use the money to bring back services that had been axed, as well as start new initiatives. In order to avoid legal reproductions, the SU aimed to include a "do not reproduce" message on each page of the course packs. The SU president, called the endeavour "an example of how the SU is working

1996



**22** Both the Pandas and the defending national champion Golden Bears will play their home openers tomorrow afternoon on the soccer pitch at Foote Field. Turn to Sports for more.

## THE GATEWAY

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be taken to the Gateway Student Journalism Society's  
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of Directors and the Ombudsboard can be reached at  
the address above.

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## colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers,  
Unisys PowerLook 10000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon  
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is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector  
images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster  
images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which  
are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the  
printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles,  
and weights of Times, Helvetica, and Arial. The  
Gateway's games of choice are Battle for Westwood  
and hopefully Burnout 3 if we can ever afford to buy it.

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James Leung, Cory Wankers, Kris Tse, Jeffrey Greenleaf,  
Chris O'Leary, Ross Prusakowski, Joie Rotating-De,  
Nicole Tomlinson, Natalie Clinebaugh, Alan Chiff.Students urged to label  
textbooks by Campus 5-0

TEXTBOOKS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"During the day, there's 60 000  
people on campus and 90 buildings.  
We can't be everywhere all of the time.  
We're really looking for help from our  
community to be our eyes and ears."There is some disagreement as to the  
extent of the problem: while Students'  
Union Vice-President (Academic) Lisa  
McLaughlin sees an increasing concern,  
University Bookstore director  
Todd Anderson downplays the issue."I think it's a perception that the  
rates of theft in general are increasing,  
and textbooks are certainly part  
of that," said McLaughlin.However, Anderson argued that  
textbook theft is no more of a prob-  
lem now than it has ever been. How  
potentially increasing theft between  
students has impacted Bookstore sales,  
he declined to say.According to Berry, Campus Security  
has amassed large amounts of unidentifi-  
fiable property. Consequently, about a  
hundred books a year are donated to  
charity, because there aren't means to  
find their rightful owners. Anderson  
said that properly marked textbooks  
help bookstore clerks identify thieves  
looking to make a quick buck off of their  
plundered textbooks."Since there are buyback operations  
on campus, it's easier to identify stolen  
books and would-be thieves trying to  
sell stolen books if there is an identifying  
mark in the book," said Anderson."If [textbooks] are stolen, there's a  
good chance that thieves are going to  
get a good dollar from it," said Berry.  
Berry hopes the program will help  
to reduce the accessibility of the market  
to stolen materials and so reduce the  
incentive for theft.

DON'T STEAL MY BOOK! Grace Berry models the new anti-theft bookmark.

JAMES LEUNG

## Only a moral shift will protect insects: U of A researcher

EXTINCTION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Although these organisms are gen-  
erally unappreciated, Proctor and her  
colleagues are trying to raise awareness  
about their value."With mites and lice it's very hard  
to raise concern about their extinction,  
but by tying it into the ecological  
network will help people to become  
aware," she explained."Consider the increase in invasive  
species that we have now. They're  
free of their parasites and predators  
and they just go crazy," said Proctor,  
pointing out that parasitic species  
have useful applications for wildlife  
management.

As the worldwide movement of

people, plants and animals continues  
to increase, more and more species are  
moved around the globe and show up  
in new places, Proctor explained.In a new environment without the  
presence of any parasites or predators,  
these exotic species' populations often  
explode and need to be managed so  
they do not negatively impact the local  
ecosystem. Bringing parasites from  
the organism's original region into the  
new region is an effective, inexpensive  
and environmentally friendly way to  
accomplish this, said Proctor.She also emphasized the important  
role that they play in helping us to  
understand evolution.

"If you're interested in understand-

Lecture series targets  
more than just students

LECTURE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"There are a wealth of research-  
ers doing important research across  
the University that is not only pro-  
vincially focused, but nationally  
focused as well," said Wonham, a  
post-doctoral student in biology and  
mathematics."Increasingly, there is more of a  
recognition for the importance of  
LGBTQ-related research as being kind  
of underserved in the University com-  
munity, and a network can really help  
to support that."The faculty of education-funded  
series began on 16 September with a  
lecture from the 16th century's  
Dr Julie Rak on queer weblogs.Dr Garrett Epp of the same depart-  
ment will give a talk on 21 October  
based on his research of the queer  
in Shakespeare's plays. Inside/Out  
intends to extend the lecture series to  
the natural sciences, particularly biol-  
ogy, next year.Wells, a U of A grad student, said  
the series is unlike anything ever  
organized at the University."As far as I know, this speaker's  
series is the first of its kind at the  
University of Alberta dedicated  
exclusively to LGBTQ issues, so in  
that sense it's starting to lay a founda-  
tion, even if that foundation is just  
awareness that people are doing this  
kind of research on the University  
campus," she said.But outside of facilitating academic  
networking, the lecture series is ben-  
eficial for students, Epp argued. Many  
academics have already been exposed  
to the queer research on campus, but  
students have not necessarily had the  
same opportunity."What's important about this series,  
per se, is that it's welcoming students  
specifically. It's advertised as a queer-  
research lecture series. So that people  
who normally do not go out to these  
things—and I use that term very delib-  
erately—can feel absolutely safe within  
this particular context," said Epp.Inside/Out is the first campus group  
geared towards a non-undergraduate  
campus population. Outreach, an orga-  
nization for LGBTQ undergraduates,  
was one of the first of its kind in North  
America and preceded Inside/Out by  
over twenty years.

“It’s advertised as  
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I use that term very  
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within this particular  
context.”

DR GARRETT EPP,  
PROFESSOR, ENGLISH"On this campus, the undergradu-  
ates have really led the way in forming  
Outreach years ago," said Wonham.  
"So the lecture series is a chance for  
the rest of the University community  
to respond to the lead that the under-  
grads have taken in some ways, and  
develop our own community."

## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed  
by Caitlin Crawshaw and  
Leanne Fong

Campus Security is  
setting up a property  
registration system to  
help locate stolen items

Is theft on campus a  
major concern for you?



**Matt Wearnouth**  
Computer  
Science III

I'm not really sure, to be honest. I've never had anything stolen and I trust my fellow students for the most part, so I think it's a good initiative but I'm not totally sure it's 100 per cent necessary. My laptop is a little different, but I can get something to chain it up. Textbooks, though, I'm not as worried about.



**Chris Magpanay**  
Engineering III

It hasn't been a concern for me yet. However, I've had people tell me about stories. So, I guess it's an issue that we should all take seriously.



**Meredith Shaw**  
Education III

I personally have never had anything stolen on campus, but I know that theft on campus is probably a lot higher than in other parts of the city, or that's what Campus Security seems to like to tell us. My textbooks are probably not reasonably safe. If somebody walked by my table they could be like, "Hmmm, it's cheaper to steal."



**Mariam Elkhazin**  
Medicine  
Counseling  
Psychology I

I think it's a good idea that you are going to register textbooks. I know my sister had her books stolen the week of exams and she had to buy all new textbooks and she couldn't find out whether the used bookstore had actually received them from somebody else who had stolen them.

## Campus paper moves online to reach students

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
News Writer

U of A students and the community at large will have an alternative to the Gateway, as the new student paper the *Independent* prepares to go online.

The *Independent* is run by student-partisan group focusing on more effective democracy in Alberta (previously known as Students for a Stronger Alberta).

The group hopes taking the paper online—after a single printing last spring—will be a temporary move, as they see themselves going back into print in the future.

The *Independent* also hopes to reach beyond the University of Alberta campus.

"We want to reach a larger audience than just the University of Alberta. We intend to expand to the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge, and Red Deer College," said Rob Anderson, the president of Democracy Now.

Anderson describes the paper as "probably more substantive" than the Gateway and feels there is a strong demand on campus for what Democracy Now has to offer.

"We set up a booth for Club Week during Orientation, and the comments that we got were just fabulous," Anderson said, referring to the reaction to the paper's solitary issue last spring.

"People were really thirsting for that kind of voice on campus." The decision to publish online was made due to financial constraints after Democracy Now was unable to secure a benefactor and a request to the Students' Union for financial support was denied.

"We didn't feel that it was the most prudent use of students' dollars at that point," SU president Jordan Blatz explained.

Because of a successful referendum in March of 2002, the Gateway ceased to be a department of the SU. As a result, the SU was not eager to re-involve itself with the running of a student paper.

"We think the Gateway is a better paper because of its autonomy. So we

weren't comfortable getting back into the newspaper business ourselves," Blatz said, adding he would welcome another newspaper on campus.

"I don't see anything wrong with healthy competition or their alternatives at all."

**"We want people to be able to see a market of ideas and really have an opportunity to have an informed position on an issue ..."**

**ROB ANDERSON,  
PRESIDENT, DEMOCRACY NOW**

According to Anderson, the appeal of the *Independent* is that it gives students the opportunity to read news covered from a different perspective.

"There's a tendency in the Gateway to cover news from a left-from-centre position," Anderson said.

"We want people to be able to see a market of ideas and really have an opportunity to have an informed position on an issue, rather than just, 'Oh that's what the Gateway says,' or 'What the article I read in the Gateway says ...,'" he said.

He added that the *Independent* will counter the Gateway's leftist tendencies by covering issues from all viewpoints.

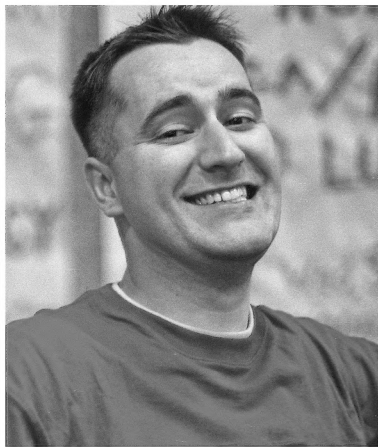
Without multiple news sources on campus, Anderson worries students may rely too heavily on the Gateway.

"If there's only the Gateway on campus, there is the possibility that it will convince students to really think the world is the way it is according to the Gateway," Anderson said.

Despite being unable to financially assist the *Independent*, the SU wishes Democracy Now well in spreading diversity on campus through their paper.

"We wish them the best of luck, and unfortunately we weren't able to help them out," Blatz said, adding that any disappointment the *Independent* faced wasn't due to lack of effort on their part.

"In the end, it's a tough thing to get something like that started in one summer," said Blatz.



MATT FREEMER

**SAY CHEESE!** Rob Anderson has lots to smile about. The *Independent's* back.

## Campus Nightlife



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gateway student journalism society

### STUDENT-AT-LARGE REQUIRED

The Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS) requires a student-at-large from the University community to serve on its board of directors for the term ending 30 April, 2005.

Applicants may not be members of the Students' Council, General Faculties Council, Board of Governors, or the Senate of the University of Alberta.

If you are interested, please submit a brief note (no more than 400 words) on what makes you a good candidate for this position no later than noon on Wednesday, 6 October, 2004 to the Chair of the GSJS board. Submissions can be made by e-mail to [gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca), or through the campus mail to The Gateway Student Journalism Society, 3-04 SUB.

Please outline previous volunteer experience and not-for-profit organization experience if applicable (though none is explicitly required).

## Books are SEXY!

**Tuesday**  
Win a \$250 Gift Certificate  
for the UofA Bookstore  
from the very SEXY  
Blackdog Freehouse  
and Keiths

Pints of  
Keiths \$3.75



# The secret world of vice-presidents

Part two of a two-part series on the four VP's of the Students' Union

JANET LO  
News Writer

With the new school year comes fresh-smelling textbooks and heaps of assignments, as well as new Students' Union Executive, eager to acquaint themselves with students.

This is the second part of a two-part series profiling the goals of the new vice-presidents.

**DUNCAN TAYLOR, VICE-PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)**

The chaos may have settled down from the Week of Welcome (WOW), but for Duncan Taylor, Students' Union vice-president (student life), the year is far from over.

Recovered from WOW, Taylor commends student activity coordinator Tyler Daignault and the WOW Planning Committee for its success, despite being thrown "every possible curveball" from dismal weather to the Molson sponsorship pulled at the last minute.

Taylor is no stranger to the volunteerism aspect of the Students' Union, having started with Orientation and Safewalk. He reminisces back to the days when he heard about the SU through the Gateway and viewed the SU from a student-group, faculty-association, and student-councilor perspective.

Being on the Executive has changed the way I look at the organization, and I'm trying to find my part in it and how I affect that chain."

Conscious of his roots, Taylor is already busy working on recognizing volunteer efforts, exploring the possibility of a volunteer-appreciation card to give a discount to SU volunteers at SU businesses.

With WOW planning and his involvement in the Bar Revitalization Plan, a summer project executing operational changes to campus bars with the goal of increasing their appeal, the fifth-year science student was kept busy during the summer.

Taylor is also responsible for all non-academic University issues, and has begun laying the groundwork for an undergraduate healthcare plan, having issued a request for proposals due back on 25 September. As well, campus parking is an issue that remains on his radar.

"I have a very fixed amount of time where I can actually offer some sort of change to the SU, especially considering how the University works."

**DUNCAN TAYLOR, SU VICE-PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)**

"Parking is the Goliath of the student-life portfolio," Taylor explains. "Any change, especially in parking, will have to be a long-term plan, through basic groundwork and hopefully with future vice-presidents following in that line."

Realizing that a full third of his term has already elapsed, Taylor understands that long-term change may not produce any tangible immediate results.

But the opportunity is one he won't regret.

"I have a very fixed amount of time

where I can actually offer some sort of change to the SU, especially considering how the University works," he says.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime shot, and I'm glad I took it."

**ALEX ABOUDD, VICE-PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL)**

Three elections in one year means a lot of work for the SU vice-president (external), but Alex Abboud wasted no time planning for the provincial election throughout the summer.

In order to better address student concerns at a provincial level, Abboud was elected Chair of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), which represents Alberta's university students to the government, the public, and other postsecondary stakeholders.

Over the summer, Abboud worked with CAUS to form a number of coalitions with student and faculty groups, including the Alberta Graduate Council, the Alberta College and Technical Institute Students' Executive Council, the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations, and the Alberta College and Institutes Faculty Association.

"We've had our differences in the past but we've been able to come together," he says.

"Ultimately, we are all stakeholders in Alberta's postsecondary system, and we can accomplish so much more if we work together than if we are divided."

"For the first time in over a decade, we're going to have the resources to run television advertising," Abboud adds.

Television advertisements promoting the importance of postsecondary education will air on Global, CTV, and A-Channel affiliates for a two-week period during the election.

Also on the list is the municipal election, scheduled for 18 October. Abboud has been talking to incumbents and candidates about repealing residential property taxes levied

against student residences.

"All University buildings are exempt from taxation except commercial buildings and student dormitories or residential buildings," Abboud explains.

"Residences can only be taxed if the municipality explicitly passes a bylaw stating that they can be taxed. It's really like the City of Edmonton has gone out of their way to tax student residences, and we would like to see an end to this."

"We can affect change, but we need students and the public to be more vocal, to get up and show that they support the postsecondary issues, and that's something we're hoping to facilitate and work with the rest of campus to accomplish."

**ALEX ABOUDD, SU VICE-PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL)**

Abboud will spend the rest of his year working with SU President Jordan Blatz and the new Working Group on Advocacy (WGA) to collect student input on key issues.

The WGA includes a student councilor and two students-at-large, and will focus on consulting with stakeholder groups on campus, such as faculty associations and residences, on postsecondary issues.

"We can affect change, but we need students and the public to be more vocal, to get up and show that they support the postsecondary issues, and that's something we're hoping to facilitate and work with the rest of campus to accomplish."



**A PLAN OF ATTACK** Alex Abboud is ready to fight during this year's elections.



# Manitoba legalizes same-sex marriage

ROBERT KOTYK  
Central Bureau Chief

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Manitoba has become the fifth jurisdiction in Canada to legalize same-sex marriage, and the first to do so without any attempt by the federal government to stop or delay the decision.

On 16 September, Court of Queen's Bench Justice Douglas Ford ruled it is unconstitutional for a marriage to be defined as a union between a man and a woman.

The wheels were set in motion when three couples—Richard North and Chris Vogel, Ritchot and Stephany Cholakis, and Laura Founise and Jordan Cantwell—filed lawsuits in August.

The decision follows precedents set by courts in British Columbia, Ontario, Québec and the Yukon.

"I'm delighted," said Karen Busby, a University of Manitoba law professor and board member at Igale Canada, the national advocacy group backing the case.

"It's a magical moment when you have the attorney general for Manitoba and the attorney general for Canada—or their lawyers—stand up in court and say that this is unconstitutional and needs to be reformed."

Busby also said that the ruling sends a message to the federal government to come to a decision on the subject.

"Parliament isn't acting on this with any kind of speed," she said.

"It's unfair to expect people to continue waiting when you have a state of ongoing inequality."

Winnipeg gay and lesbian advocacy groups were ecstatic upon hearing about the Manitoba judge's ruling.

"Wow" is the only thing that can describe it, really," said Tamara Roy, co-facilitator for the University of Manitoba's Rainbow Pride Mosaic.

"Things are changing and I'm just really excited to hear it."

**"Parliament isn't acting on this with any kind of speed. It's unfair to expect people to continue waiting when you have a state of ongoing inequality."**

KAREN BUSBY,  
U OF M LAW PROFESSOR

But the Winnipeg Roman Catholic Archdiocese spoke out against the decision, saying that marriage should be recognized as a union that

provides offspring.

Roy asserted a national ruling on same-sex marriage now appears to be inevitable.

"It's always nice to see progress, whatever it is," she said.

"Just moving forward and seeing attitudes change is just a great step for everyone."

Within the coming weeks, a Nova Scotia judge will decide a similar case.

Busby was optimistic the ruling would be in favour of same-sex unions.

"If everything goes according to plan or if we have a bit of luck on our side, the headlines next week will be about Nova Scotia," said Busby.



IT'S LEGAL FOLKS Tamara Roy welcomes same-sex marriage into Manitoba.

## McGill restricts political events on campus

ERIKA MEIERE  
The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP)—A new policy restricting political events at McGill University has angered student leaders and activists.

The University's senate approved a set of preliminary recommendations limiting political events on campus last May. The recommendations came from an ad hoc committee of students, faculty and administrators, which suggested the University restrict rallies, vigils and other political events to just three sites.

The recommendations, which will stand as regulations until the senate approves a final plan, have replaced a policy that banned all political events at the University. But many worry the new rules will do little to facilitate freedom of expression. Student leaders reject the principle of the recommendations, arguing the University shouldn't place restrictions on how students use their campus.

McGill Students' Society Vice-President Daniel Friedlaender questioned the need for any rules at all.

"The students aren't going to do something inappropriate," he said.

"If we choose to gather in a peaceful and non-inflammatory manner, then we shouldn't be stopped from doing that."

Almed Al-Safia, vice-president of the Graduate Student Union, represented graduate students on the committee that drafted the policy and was unsatisfied with the result. He

pointed to the dangers of restricting freedom of expression at an academic institution.

"I think censoring the students is ridiculous," he said. "McGill should not be censoring what we think is controversial—what we think should be debated in a public forum."

**"If we choose to gather in a peaceful and non-inflammatory manner, then we shouldn't be stopped from doing that."**

DANIEL FRIEDLAENDER,  
MCGILL STUDENTS' SOCIETY VP

Samuel Noumoff, veteran political science professor and university senator, stressed that the policy is still in the preliminary stages, making it hard to predict its effects. He added that action would need to be taken if the policy did result in an encroachment on political expression.

"Should it be used as a pretext to shut down freedom of expression, I think we have to raise that and alter the policy," he said.

The issue of political events on campus came up last fall when the University declined the Students' Society request to hold a rally opposing tuition hikes on the main campus. Students' Society leaders were sur-

prised when the University told them there was a long-standing policy banning political events on campus. They were especially startled because they had previously been able to use campus space for that purpose without objection.

In this regard, Noumoff is pleased that students and administrators will finally have a concrete policy to work from.

"We've never had a specific prescribed policy; it was done on the basis of ad-hocery. Things seem to have taken a different turn," he said. "My judgment is that at least we now have a policy that is a known policy, and therefore that is progress."

In formulating their recommendations, the senate committee considered McGill's Charter of Students' Rights, which guarantees freedom of opinion, expression and peaceful assembly.

But Chuck Adler, director of the University Planning Office and campus events committee chair, said the group's main concern was the security of the McGill community and campus.

Al-Safia said he struggled to ensure that the recommendations did not violate student rights. According to Al-Safia, the committee initially wanted to ban all events from McGill property, allowing events in front of the Student Union Building only.

The recommendations will serve as guidelines until the committee releases its final recommendations at the end of the 2004/05 academic year.

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# OPINION

opinion@gateway.alberta.ca • Thursday, 23 September, 2004

## Buying votes is nothing new, especially in Alberta

ENOUGH ALBERTANS HAVE HAD the bright idea to blow their gas rebate cheques on shopping sprees down at the corner liquor mart. Which is why it's almost inspiring to hear that "helpers" of an Alberta PC nominee, Sukhi Randhawa, had the initiative to avoid all the hassle and bureaucracy of mailing out gas vouchers by skipping right to giving Albertans what they want: free liquor and cigarettes.

Of course, nothing in this province, or anywhere else for that matter, is ever free. Last Tuesday, several vanloads of people (primarily picked up from the charmingly sketchy York Hotel on 10401 96 Street) allegedly got some "free" beer and smokes, and not before they agreed to be carted down to the Ottewill Community Hall to vote for Randhawa as the PC candidate for Edmonton-Goldbar.

The result of this bribe-fuelled voting party was a win for Randhawa, 64 to 35. His opponent, Donald Butlin, is quite rightly appealing the results of the election, claiming the bribed voters turned the result.

But there's still some question as to whether any investigation will be done into Randhawa's dubious win. Wendy Pearce, Randhawa's campaign manager, though apologetic about the apparent drunkenness of many voters (some voters were allegedly so sauced they couldn't read the ballots foisted in front of them), has downplayed the scandal, saying she sees no reason for party investigation.

And there likely won't be—according to party rules, there is no specific clause forbidding buying party memberships for recruited supporters. And besides that, Albertan, and Canadian politics for that matter, have a shady history of precisely these sorts of shenanigans.

Take, for instance, the case of a nomination election in Calgary-Montrose where MLA Hung Pham was claimed to have bribed residents with food and grocery vouchers for this vote, or the 1983 scandal where Brian Mulroney waded a leadership race win over Joe Clark by luring supporters from a Montreal homeless shelter with the promise of free beer. Mind you, old Joe wasn't any less weasel-esque: according to Faron Ellis' *Alberta in the 20th Century, Volume II*, Clark was paying recruits \$10 per new-voter head.

Randhawa's vote-finding goons, it seems, were only taking a page from Canadian history—or at least just following the lead of their party's fearless leader. Klein's conservatives might not regularly promise free beer and cigarettes from campaign podiums (though it's clearly a crowd-pleasing strategy they might want to look into), but come every election, Conservatives have been bribing voters, enticing them with the promise of using those amazing surplus dollars for more rebates and better education, better healthcare, and better whatever! It's gotten voters yee-hawing and cranning beer down their gullets while boxing their PC-marked ballot.

One exception for the past two decades, voters take note that the Tories left them, forgetting that the reason they so desperately need all the things they're being promised is because the same government that's promising an improved quality of life has been hacking away at their precious social programs. It's amazing how much money is left over when you take it all away to begin with.

One could say that the repeated events of the past two decades have come about because Albertan voters are just sweet and forgiving souls, but it seems more likely that they're just as cheap as 75-year-old Baltic hookers. Voters are easily bought, and given the history, what happened in Edmonton-Goldbar last Tuesday—though shocking—is still no surprise. And it'll come as no greater surprise if no investigation is made into Randhawa's election.

But as for that free beer and cigarettes idea, that's something the Alberta PCs should look into. At least the beer and cigarettes were being paid for out of the bribers' own pockets.

Any bribe the PCs offer this election is just some thing Albertans already had before they got in power. Voters might be cheap, but that doesn't sound like much of a deal.

LEAH COLLINS  
Entertainment Editor

## LETTERS

### Dave Schaefer II responds to Dave Schaefer I

This letter is in response to Dave Schaefer's letter, "Closing the door on Open Source" (21 September). Mr Schaefer, you make some points which I personally don't agree with and quite frankly was hurt by, mainly the point where you used my name for your really nerdy letter.

Now sure, I realize that you have every right to voice your own opinions in a public forum, but when you start using my name and dragging my reputation through the mud, that's when you infringe upon my rights, which I think we can both agree are far more important than your own. Already, I have been attacked by friends and family with questions such as, "Why is it you seem to know all that stuff about computers?" "My computer has a virus, could you fix it?" and "Dave, I thought you were cool. How could I have been so wrong?"

Look: at first when I saw your name in the paper, I thought there might be something cool about you. But now I, and everyone else who happens to read the Gateway, can see that there is absolutely no truth to that. Because of this, I ask that you now refrain from writing any more such letters to anyone. After all, you aren't just putting your reputation at stake; you're putting everyone with your name at stake. I really hope that we're not related.

DAVE SCHAEFER II  
Science III

### Ranchers do deserve government money

I was very upset after reading Adam Gaurmont's article on ranchers "Ranchers don't deserve government bailout." (14 September). I admit I likely have a bias because my parents are beef farmers, but I still feel that the author was speaking from a close-minded perspective.

Mr Gaurmont acts as if beef farmers are attempting to make every-one else sorry for them, and are in fact only "suffering from the dangers of free-market enterprise." True enough, but are "40 mil owners" or the "inventor of pigs" providing an absolutely necessary service? I believe that is the main misconception provided in this article.

Without the help of government subsidies, my family would likely have been forced to sell more cows than we already had to (at prices that do not allow the farmer to make a profit, he is lucky if he gets what the animal has cost him in feed, vet bills, etc.). The reason the government subsidies are provided is not because the government feels sorry for the farmer—it is because beef is very important to Alberta, and because it is needed to feed our province/country. If all our farmers were forced to sell their cattle, the province would suffer. It is not that ranchers "deserve government bailout," it is for the benefit of everyone else, including the author.

ASHLEY COLLINS  
Education III



### Springtime for Winters

I have been a regular reader of the Gateway since I joined the U of A faculty in 1998. In general I enjoy reading it, and in particular I have been impressed by the high standard of news and opinion writing under the recent and current editorial regimes. I also like many of the comics. However, I have to wonder why Mike Winters, who has been running comics in the Gateway for as long as I have been reading it and probably longer, is still appearing in your pages, having graduated several years ago.

Mr Winters' comics have generally aimed to shock and offend. I understand that; presumably he sees a point to it, even if it escapes me. However, the "Sex Boys" strip in the 21 September issue, depicting a black woman being sexually accosted unexpectedly from behind by a white male, seems to me to cross the line into misogyny, racism, and the portrayal of sexual assault. I wonder whether it is not now time for Mr Winters to move on into his post-university adult life, and the Gateway to find some younger and fresher talent to fill its comic pages.

DR RYAN DUNCH  
Department of History and Classics

### Soviet Union actually better than Alberta

I, of course, understand the point Ross Moroz is making in his recent history-inspired, exercise in sarcasm ("Thank God we live in Alberta, not Soviet Russia," 16 September). It is nice to see that this student's knowledge acquired in class didn't just sink down the memory hole but instead is being used in the current political context. I prefer to leave for others to argue whether Mr Moroz

got it right regarding Klein's government. However, as a PhD student in Eastern European history, I am saddened by Mr Moroz's fallacious depictions of Soviet reality.

There were no opposition parties in the Soviet Union, and pre-election goodies were offered simply to entice people to come to the polling station regardless of the actual voting result, which invariably would be 99.97 per cent for the one and only candidate on the ballot. Moscow was never more pro-Communist than other regions of the USSR. If anything it was less so due to the presence of a large number of intelligentsia. The price of petroleum didn't go up towards the end of the Soviet Union, and there were indeed numerous uprisings against Communist rule, all of them brutally suppressed.

I have had the pleasure of teaching Soviet history at this University before and, as I am going to do it again, I would like to tell Mr Moroz: you are very welcome to my class! I am sure you would be able to make many other references, and this time correct ones, to the practices of the Soviet regime while writing on current political issues.

IYA KHINEYKO  
PHD Student  
Department of History and Classics

### Self-respect is about wearing what you want, Owram

This is a response to Kristine Owram's 16 September article ("What happened to self-respect?" "What happened to self-respect?" Aesthetically-obsessed wankers warped it when they felt compelled to impose their superficiality on the world around them. It seems to me that wearing an outfit because you want to attract the

attention of "some great person" at the bar is really about self-disrespect.

My life has been spent believing self-respect, in terms of apparel, was about dressing for yourself. By dressing for yourself, I mean wearing clothes not for other people. Personally, I would rather look like a slob wearing sweats because I feel like it than a ho-bag missing the rest of her skirt because she wants to reed in Mr Right (read: Mr Pervet). As a side-note, that trendy "boudoir" look is really just pajamas.

I appreciate Owram's opinion; it's nice to think someone's looking out for my personal and professional well-being, though I can't help but feel the article consists mainly of Owram wanting to encounter a more attractive student body. So dear students, I hope you remember there is only one person for whom you should dress. Not that loser at the bar, not a boss you don't even have yet, but that rascally character reflected when you look into a mirror.

SARAH CARIGNAN  
Science IV

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.alberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication. How many of you reading this, just for the sake of it? I put in something witty? How many? Really. Don't you people have better things to do with your time? Like, say, write a letter?



# Sadly, you're going to have to settle for one penis



TIM  
PEPPIN

I am bothered by a lot of things. As a congenital malcontent suffering from a good education and frequent forced exposure to popular culture, the opportunities for frustration seem endless. I was subjected recently to an otherwise normal and intelligent person's conjectures on the direction of human evolution. Will we become increasingly intelligent as the ages pass, probing ever deeper into philosophy and science, plumbing the mysterious depths of the universe as a race of geniuses? Will we grow new appendages, or third eyes, or two penises? Will we evolve into altruistic models of compassion, where each acts only for the good of society?

Despite the allure of all of these prospects (especially the two penises—wow) and the historical precedent of 3.8 billion years of unbroken evolutionary change, there remained a fundamental and damning flaw in his speculation. Humans, unlike virtually all other species that exist, have existed, and will ever exist, are not evolving. At least, not in any directed fashion. Our species, you could say, is in stasis, perhaps even stagnation. For all of you who are scratching your heads, let me explain.

Evolution, for the most part, takes place because of the interaction of genetic variance and natural selection, neither of which are as well understood by the general public (or even

biology students, for that matter) as they should be.

It's pretty simple: all things that reproduce vary. Sometimes it is a case of mutations cropping up in the genetic code: UV light from the sun can do it, exposure to some heavy metals can do it, enzymatic errors can do it, some bacteria and viruses will even force it. The fact remains that mutations occur, and when they do, they will typically cause a change in that organism. The primary source of variation is through genetic recombination—the shuffling around of genes and gene fragments whenever a sexual organism reproduces. Such shuffling gives rise to traits and combinations of traits never before seen in the world. These things, mutation and recombination, are the fodder upon which natural selection acts.

Most people don't understand natural selection. It works like this: any trait that helps the organism possessing it to leave offspring, themselves capable of reproducing, will tend to become more numerous in the world. Other traits which are lethal, or which do not help the organism to leave successful offspring, will tend to become less numerous in the world.

That's pretty much it. As a consequence, what works spreads, and what doesn't work gets eliminated. The whole thing hinges on some organisms, which typically have helpful traits in common, leaving more offspring than organisms that do not possess those helpful traits.

Now, I possess a lot of unhelpful traits. I'm borderline blind, and if left without my glasses in a natural environment, I may be dead

very quickly. I'm skinnier than I think helpful in a fight. Others also have unhelpful traits. Some people are too fat to run quickly. Some people are damned ugly. Others, it seems, are born with every gift and talent known to humankind.

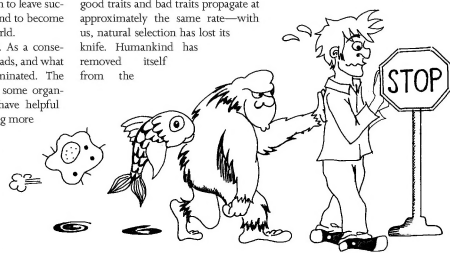
**Humans, unlike virtually all other species that exist, have existed, and will ever exist, are not evolving. At least, not in any directed fashion. Our species, you could say, is in stasis, perhaps even stagnation.**

But—and here's the kicker—while, on average, tend to leave the same number of offspring as anybody else. Yokels and Einsteins, slobs and vixens, good traits and bad traits propagate at approximately the same rate—with us, natural selection has lost its knife. Humankind has removed itself from the

influence of its environment, and as such is no longer meaningfully subjected to natural selection. Because of this, there is no longer any direction to human evolution. Mutations still crop up, recombination still occurs, but without a difference in reproductive rates, most genes flow and spread at the same rate.

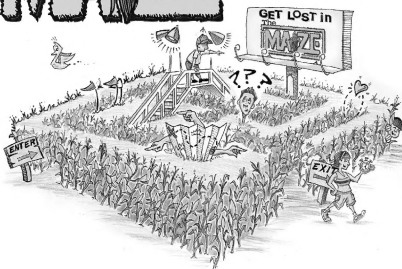
I am not advocating some sort of artificial selection program where the "unfit," like me, would be killed off before leaving offspring, while the Golden Bears football team gets to leave 100 children to maintain the fitness of the gene pool. Social Darwinism was one of the worst sins ever enacted upon mankind, and I do not advocate it in any way. All I am saying is that it is an incontestable fact that much of humankind has ceased to evolve in a directional fashion, and that, as a whole, we are unlikely to change much from what we are.

So the next time someone you know starts talking about the evolutionary future of humankind, say, "Sorry man, looks like you're stuck with just one."



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THE BURLAP  
SACK

This edition of the Burlap Sack goes out to many different people, all guilty of the same crime. These would be those members of mass media outlets that feel compelled to tag any sort of scandalous event, political or otherwise, with some sort of less-than-imaginative pun based on Watergate. For example, back when of Jean Chrétien was giving federal money to help a friend develop a golf course in his home riding, we had "Shawinigate," playing on his hometown of Shawinigan, Quebec. Alright, I'll admit there's a bit of a ring to it. But it didn't stop there. After the APEC Summit and the whole pepper spray debacle, we had "Peppergate." Cute, but stupid.

But wait! Just when you thought it was over, it kept coming. When Janet Jackson had her so-called wardrobe malfunction, it was — wait for it ... "Nipplegate!" There wasn't even a vague connection to the original scandal, but that didn't stop them. Now that's originality.

Never mind that it was a few yards short of clever to begin with, but to keep on mindlessly repeating it? There is only one solution: the sack for the lot of you, I say!

TONY SANTIN

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered, because if they were, it would clearly kick off some kind of horrible scandal which we would have not choice but to call "Sackgate." Or maybe even "Burlapgate."

# Congratulations on being debt free; now let's make sure we don't waste it



TREVOR PANAS

In our 99th year, Alberta is poised to become the first province in over 20 years to eliminate its provincial debt, and, if financial forecasts are correct, we may even be the only province in Canada this year to run a surplus budget.

The price of oil flirting with record highs on a daily basis combined with tight-fisted public purse strings has not only set us firmly "in the black" for 2004, but it will produce a budget surplus that some analysts say could top \$10 billion. While this is undoubtedly good news, however, I believe the issue of a debt-free Alberta raises some very pressing concerns that must be addressed.

Perhaps the issue that chaps my tender areas the most is that it is us, the citizens of this province, who are ultimately responsible for our debt elimination, not the provincial government. It is us, therefore, who should feel the greatest sense of pride in our accomplishment. It angers me then to see the provincial Tories portrayed in some media reports as fiscal geniuses, as if they concocted some sort of brilliant, never-before-seen debt-reduction scheme, when in fact the formula was quite simple: cut, cut, collect taxes and royalties, cut.

Not to take anything away from the women and men in our Legislature, but we the people of Alberta were the

"Perhaps the issue that chaps my tender areas the most is that it is us, the citizens of this province, who are ultimately responsible for our debt elimination, not the provincial government. It is us, therefore, who should feel the greatest sense of pride in our accomplishment."

ones who ultimately bore the effects of massive spending cuts and, in many cases, were forced to trade communal public debt for personal debt—like, for example, the average indebtedness of a university student. We are the ones who have suffered through lengthened waiting lists, crowded classrooms, deregulated utilities, and, for the good people in Sherwood Park directly downwind of one of the largest refinery operations in North America—which coincidentally happens to process our largest source of revenue—one of the highest rates of birth defects and childhood asthma cases in Canada.

With the spectre of debt now off our backs, at least as a province, we now must decide where we would like to invest our money. If we were to divvy up a \$10 billion surplus among the three million or so of us in this province, it would work out to about \$3000 each, which is an option some have advocated. Others have suggested reducing personal income taxes or even eliminating business income taxes altogether.

However, as a sustainability-oriented person, I believe that we as individuals and as a province would be foolish to assume that an economic windfall based largely on energy royalties from a non-renewable resource will continue indefinitely. Thus, I think

a large investment in the Heritage Fund (or a similar "rainy day" investment) would be a wise decision; it's not unforeseeable that Alberta will eventually need some cash to help ease us into an era when the oil dries up, so that we have the capital to invest in other industries.

Of course, I would advocate that a percentage of our surplus go towards our dilapidated public education system, not in the form of increased salaries for teachers, but to hire more teachers, reduce class sizes, and provide necessary educational resources. Obviously, a tuition freeze for our own institution would also be high on my list of priorities.

Lastly, we must not allow the federal government to see Alberta as a cash cow which can be milked to feed the rest of Canada. With Alberta families already doling out abhorrent amounts of money in the form of equalization payments to the other provinces, we are already doing more than our share, and must refuse to accept any further abuse from Ottawa.

So, pat yourself on the back, look at your utility bills and your student loan statements, and ask yourself if it was worth it, because for better or worse, this is where we, as a province, have decided to go. And don't forget that come election time, it's you who decides where we are going.

## Welcome to the wonderful world of marriage; it kind of sucks, doesn't it?



JAMES ELFORD

Madame Justice Ruth Mesbury recently cut a mighty judicial swath through Canada's Divorce Act when she ruled that the traditional definition of spouse (ie man and woman rather than man and horse or possibly Core Vidal and a can of soup) was unconstitutional. Unfortunately, there wasn't the mighty cheer that would be expected from a ruling that brought same-sex marriage even closer to that ever-nearing goal of equality.

That's right. It was inevitable. After all, it made no sense that homosexuals could marry and not divorce. After all, the only people who are supposed to be trapped in loveless marriages are characters in Edward Albee plays. Thanks to Madame Justice Mesbury's unwillingness to hold out against logic, homosexuals can now experience the whole range of disappointment, betrayal, and quiet nights spent crying yourself to sleep next to someone you can barely talk to so anymore that heterosexuals have been jealously guarding like some kind of magic treasure chest of broken dreams.

And jumping right in they are. Already JH and MM, as the two women who were seeking a divorce

are known in court documents, managed to run quite the gamut of bad marriage scenarios on their route to being pioneers in this area of human rights and misery. Married soon after the Ontario Court of Appeal legalized same-sex marriage, it took the women all of five days to separate. Why?

**However, even I can be happy that homosexuals are discovering that, like in a heterosexual relationship, marriage won't magically smooth over all of one's problems. I guess that makes me a horrible person.**

They married on the hope that having their relationship recognized by the government would magically fix ten years of problems. So right there they already tried to cram in the quickie marriage, the fix 'er-up marriage, and the way-to-late marriage all at once. That's what I call taking one for the team.

Just to clear things up here, I'm indifferent to same-sex marriage the way I'm indifferent to someone else's lunch. I'm not eating it, so I don't care

if it's a delicious donair or some sort of horribly poisonous sandwich. It just doesn't affect me. However, even I can be happy that homosexuals are discovering that, like in a heterosexual relationship, marriage won't magically smooth over all of one's problems. I guess that makes me a horrible person. Yep. It sure does.

Maybe I can make up some karma here by pointing out that many of these relationships will probably continue as they had before—filled with love and possibly cake—but now with legal sanction from the government that was, for whatever reason, very important to some people who couldn't have it earlier.

But that's not what this ruling was about. This ruling was about the nasty side of equality that brings all the crap with the good. Not to say that there weren't nasty break-ups between same sex couples before marriage, but now they have the option of potentially miring themselves in as much legal shit as heterosexuals.

I don't know why no one is celebrating the fact that they can now share in it. After all, it was a long, hard battle to enjoy the benefits of this increasingly archaic legal status. I mean, they've got a few more rights than common law partnerships have. Who wouldn't be excited? Maybe it's because it's hard to get everyone to do that stupid court dance in those tiny superior courtrooms.

And on that note, I just want to say "welcome to the club, and don't forget the pre-ump."



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## Way to ruin marriage, Britney

SCOTT  
BOURGEOIS

Unless you live under a rock in Antarctica you've no doubt heard by now that our favourite "chaste" pop sensation Britney Spears tied the knot yet again this week. This time, the lucky groom is her boyfriend of six months, David Fedeline, and I imagine he's happy to be married to his blushing, divorcee bride.

Now, maybe I'm overly sensitive to this kind of stuff, but it seems to me that stupid celebrity marriage stunts like this are the real threat to the "sacred" institution we need so desperately to preserve.

All religion aside, to me marriage is a state that two people enter into when they wish, legally and spiritually, to spend the rest of their lives in partnership; when they wish to share a responsibility to one another. It is not a commitment to be undertaken lightly—it means you're willing to love your partner for who they are. It means something important, and it should be treated as such.

When these criteria are met, in my humble opinion, it shouldn't matter if you're gay, bi, or straight as the crowd flies—if you're willing to make that commitment, you're in.

It's when people like our beloved Mrs. Fedeline-Alexander-Spears (that's Britney) get married for three days that the institution of marriage is shot upon.

Believe it or not, Britney does have a following, and it's primarily young

teenage girls who idolize her. What are they going to grow up like with her excellent example to look up to?

Well, for starters they're going to dress like prostitutes. Not that this is much of a change from how young girls are already dressing, but that's a completely different topic. The real issue is that they're going to grow up treating marriage like a cheap sweater—a convenient label that they can put on and take off.

If they want to get "married" to their boyfriend for a few days to try it out, they will. Then, when they realize their boyfriend of two months is really a jackass, they'll annul the marriage, dump him and be done with it. No harm, no foul, right?

It's this mentality that leads to the break-up of salvageable marriages. "We don't have to work through our problems, so why bother? Let's get a divorce!"

It seems that this is a growing trend, even today, and it does more damage to the institution of marriage than two men who genuinely love one another ever will, despite what a certain president of the United States might have you believe. We as a people need to step back and really evaluate what the threat to marriage is here, and I think I can honestly say that two women tying the knot is better than a celebrity freak show broadcast on some second-rate reality show.

So what does Britney have to say for herself, as the harbinger of an age when the titles of "husband and wife" have the importance of a can of sardines? I challenge her to defend her choice to use what should have been a loving partnership as a publicity stunt.

In the end, though, I simply feel sorry for David Fedeline, or as he should be called, the next ex-Mr. Spears.

## Put down the pills and let your body do its own thing

CHELSEY  
GRIMBLY

One of the funniest quirks my grandma has is what we like to call her "Chinese witch-doctor healing." This includes bizarre treatments like tying hot fried ginger to your head for a headache, or rolling boiled eggs over a bruise. Granted, a lot of her teas and concoctions are forced down in between gaps, but they still seem do the trick.

And as much as we joke about her remedies, there's no one I would trust more to get me better quickly when I have a cold. Which is why I can't help but shake my head when I go to the drugstore and see people grabbing every cough and cold medicine they see. What happened to the days when people would stay at home drinking plenty of fluids and eating hot soup?

People are so worried these days about "super bugs" that are resistant to antibiotics, but how can they be surprised when all we use to cure ailments is lab-created pills instead of natural immunities? We assume that everything pharmaceutical companies put on the market is approved and tested, but then we get things like Accutane, the cure-all acne medicine for teens. Oh yeah, by the way, it may cause suicidal tendencies.

What the hell kind of company makes a drug for teens that may or may not make them want to kill themselves? As if having a face full of zits isn't bad enough. Honestly, what are we thinking? When a disease isn't life

threatening, it seems stupid to immediately resort to drugs, especially if we don't even know all the side effects.

Hell, we might even be fighting evolution with all this. There's a reason there's that whole natural selection bit—it forces our bodies to adapt to change. Bacteria, on the other hand, seem to be following Darwin's advice just fine, that's why super bugs are getting "super" at hurting us.

But our bodies can adapt as well. Researchers are doing a study on prostitutes in Africa and have found some interesting results. Because these prostitutes don't usually use condoms, more than 70 per cent of them are HIV positive. And though we accept HIV and AIDS as one of the incurable diseases of our time, some of these women are developing immunities and resistances to HIV. Because of their increased exposure to the virus, their immune systems have no choice but to adapt or die. Hookers are doing a better job at adapting than we are with our \$60 billion healthcare system and

research, and they live in absolute poverty. I mean, if we can prevent AIDS by natural forces, what's a cold or an ear infection to us?

I really wonder about backwards evolution; we're just making humans weaker if every generation relies more and more on medicine as viruses become resistant. Every time someone gets mildly sick, they don't just sleep it off anymore. Instead, they run to the nearest doctor or drugstore and load up on antibiotics and painkillers and sedatives and cough syrups and lozenges and so on. Do we really want to create a "bubble boy" society where the slightest virus morphed into a super bug can kill us just by having us breathe it in?

It's high time we put an end to this. Yes, it might mean that when we get sick we'll have to suffer for a few days. But instead of helping the evolution of a stronger virus, why don't you just take a few days off, rent some old movies and drink tea. It's time to let your body do its own thing.

## Dave Alexander's TOP TEN Upsides to living in a hurricane zone

- 10 Religious canvassers now need some sort of Jesus-canoe if they want to get to your front door.
- 9 Items the looters left behind are already positioned for a yard sale.
- 8 Spirited game of hide-and-go-seek with your mobile home.
- 7 Porch got a lot roomier with all the rooms gone.
- 6 It's Shangri-La for footpuck lovers.
- 5 Can finally see what the inside of the neighbour girl's bedroom looks like without climbing a tree.
- 4 Let's see those dicks at Domino's find your place in under 30 minutes now.
- 3 Assuming you get to keep anything that lands on your property, you're now the proud owner of half a houseboat.
- 2 Chances of getting on Trading Spaces dramatically improved.
- 1 God almost finished punishing your southern coastal state for electing Bush.

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## Believe it or not, democracy takes time



JOHN BRAGA

In an interview with the BBC on 15 September, Kofi Annan, the secretary general of the United Nations, finally declared that the American-led war in Iraq is illegal. When asked by the interviewer if he thought the invasion was against the law, he responded, "Yes, I have indicated it is not in conformity with the UN Charter. From our point of view and from the Charter's point of view, it was illegal."

Then, this Tuesday, Annan addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York City. His speech focused on the importance of the "rule of law" and how no nation must be considered above international law. In the opening paragraph of his speech he stated that, "Indeed today, more than ever, the world needs an effective mechanism through which to seek common solutions to common problems. That is what this organization was created for. Let's not imagine that, if we fail to make good use of it, we will find any more effective instrument."

Once again, Annan appeared to be referring to how the United States needs to stop working against the UN and the world community, and needs to play by the same rules as everyone else.

According to international law, no military action should have taken place in Iraq until after the Security Council passed a resolution permit-

ting military sanctions. And yes, I vividly remember how France promised to use its veto power on the council to block such a resolution. However, the US, rather than attempting to use diplomacy to justify their goals, resorted to infantile gestures such as feeble name calling and the boycotting of French products.

**Democracy is inherently inefficient, almost by definition. If you must build consensus between many different people before you can act, then you are doomed to several years of waiting before anything can be accomplished.**

President George W. Bush responded similarly when it became obvious his permission slip to go into Iraq was not forthcoming. Instead of trying to convince more nations to agree with him, he simply raised the banner of war and called all those who already agreed with him to fall into line. This illustrates to me the exact problem behind the US's Operation Iraq Freedom: The American population does not understand that freedom and democracy require an investment in time and the patience to listen to people they don't necessarily agree with.

Democracy is inherently inefficient, almost by definition. If you must build

consensus between many different people before you can act, then you are doomed to several years of waiting before anything can be accomplished. The United Nations is not able to respond quickly—it requires seemingly endless debate on every issue, and its policies can only be fulfilled after decades or even generations.

But this is exactly the role the UN is supposed to fill: to create an atmosphere where gradual change will accumulate to make the world a better place. Caution and finesse are the only options available when so many diverse cultures all have input into the decision-making process.

It is the slowness of the process that the United States nearly always interprets as indifference. However, it is far more productive to have years of sanctions applying pressure to a nation to change than it is to simply use brute strength. Yes, the people of Iraq were suffering under a dictator, but this was not the reason the US gave for invading Iraq. First the alleged weapons of mass destruction and then the ties to Osama Bin Laden had to prove false before the US presented the spread of democracy as their reason for being in Iraq, and accused the UN of indifference to the people's plight.

It is easier to gradually renovate a nation into a modern democracy than it is to bomb it into oblivion and wonder why it takes so long to rebuild from the foundations up. However, the UN will eventually come in with more than their current supply of 35 people, and will aid America in rebuilding Iraq.

Ultimately, America's decision to unilaterally go to war in Iraq was not just illegal. It was stupid, too.

## Sudan can't wait for democracy, diplomacy



ELIJOT BRIDGEWATER

Over one million of what the World Health Organization calls "internally displaced peoples" are homeless due to civil war and ethnic cleansing in Darfur, a highly populated area of Sudan. Fifty thousand are reported dead, and refugee camps in Chad are exploding with 110 000 refugees.

These facts, emerging from a tightly sealed Sudan, are pretty damn disconcerting, yet it's only recently that the UN has seriously addressed the issue, most notably when Colin Powell termed what was going on "genocide."

The huge numbers and ridiculously small amount of reaction raise two big questions, the first of which is just when the number of dead and suffering will be high enough to warrant meaningful international action, from the UN or someone else.

Frankly, the Sudanese government, which is supplying weapons to Arab militia who are burning entire villages and killing thousands of people, is making Duhya's infamous Axis of Evil look fairly tame of late. Iran is beginning to look—dare I say—progressive in the Islamic world, with religious moderates gaining popularity among the younger generation, and North Korea, although still desperately clinging to a crumbling dictatorship, seems a little hoarse lately in its threats of nuclear power.

Sudan is doing far more than either

of these nations, but so far any serious response to their actions has been non-existent.

Which brings us to the second question: if an international force does ever make its way to Sudan, which global player is willing to lead the intervention?

**The problem is that by the time consensus is reached, it may be too late. After all, in 1994, three months was all it took for 800 000 Tutsis to be slaughtered in Rwanda.**

The UN has already shown itself to be agonizingly slow, even though the issue has been brought to the table repeatedly and as early as April, when a report cited evidence of human rights abuses and ethnic cleansing in Darfur—a report that was ultimately censored and effectively thrown under the table.

Now that someone is finally using language that demands attention, hopefully the UN will determine that yes, mass murder and displacement of a particular ethnicity in Darfur is genocide, and that something should probably be done. The problem is that by the time consensus is reached, it may be too late. After all, in 1994, three months was all it took for 800 000 Tutsis to be slaughtered in Rwanda.

Basically, this leaves the Great United Hope (the UN) appearing

watered down and largely useless. Enter the States, the empire everyone loves to hate, but in this case possibly the only hope one million Sudanese have of meaningful international intervention.

It's safe to say that the Bush administration is not the most forward-thinking presidency in the history of the United States, and as anyone who has watched *Fahrenheit 9/11* can attest Duhya is definitely not the sharpest tool in the shed. Bush is basically a linear, one-dimensional wartime president. He's shown the cocky bull-headedness to stick with Iraq, while openly goading terrorists and a large portion of the international community. And even though Iraq is a mess and he has given the world an even bigger reason to hate the US, he's still givin' 'er.

This tactic—givin' 'er, I mean—shows a lot of guts even if there is little brain involved. But the point is, like that little dipshit at the bar with a couple of huge buddies, Bush is willing to dive into just about any fight, and for once, with Sudan on the edge of open genocide, that trait may come in handy.

It seems necessary for the US to step up to the plate in Sudan, and since Bush has finally unmasked a global colonial watchdog used to feigning isolationism, it's high time the States make use of its long arm for a cause over and above short-term self-interest. And while the UN needs to be involved, it may have to be pulled in kicking and screaming to avoid the inevitable stupefying amount of foot dragging.

Regardless of how it happens, though, the big players need to start looking towards Sudan to avoid another massive genocide in Africa.

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# Telling people they need dairy products is downright irresponsible



MELVIN  
BACKSTROM

four servings of milk products a day if I wanted a healthy diet. Now, I know that this advice is based on the recommendations contained in the Canada Food Guide, but I expect better from the health experts at this institution of higher learning.

**The fact is, though, that 75 per cent of the world's adult population do not produce enough of the lactase enzyme that eating dairy products requires.**

Cheese, wonderful cheese: what would the world be like without this amazing stuff? From cream cheese on bagels to mozzarella on pizza to brie on ... well, anything—the list goes on and on. One of the few things I enjoy as much as cheese is the wonder that is organic, non-homogenized, non-gelatinized, non-sweetened or flavoured yogurt.

Yes, the wonderful world of dairy products. So tasty and flavourful, at least for those lucky enough to not be lactose intolerant. The fact is, though, that 75 per cent of the world's adult population do not produce enough of the lactase enzyme that eating dairy products requires. As a result, the wonderful bounty of the dairy world produces some or all of these oh-so-pleasant symptoms: cramps, bloating, gas, diarrhea, and nausea. Only Caucasians (approximately 80 per cent) commonly have the genetic abnormality that allows them to digest the sugar lactase into adulthood.

So it was with surprise that I saw, while sitting in the waiting room of the University Health Clinic on the second floor of SUB, a "health reminder" on a television screen telling me that I should include two to

wonderful foods can be found, but anything containing dairy products is noticeably absent. No milk, no cheese, no yogurt—nothing. Does this then mean that the Chinese people who shop at these stores have an unhealthy diet?

On the contrary, the traditional Chinese diet has been definitively linked to less coronary heart disease, less breast cancer and yes—less osteoporosis. All three of these diseases are, in fact, positively correlated to the ingestion of dairy products.

"But I thought I needed to drink milk in order to get enough calcium so that I wouldn't get osteoporosis," say all those who have always assumed that the dairy industry would never lie to them. The truth is that osteoporosis is an

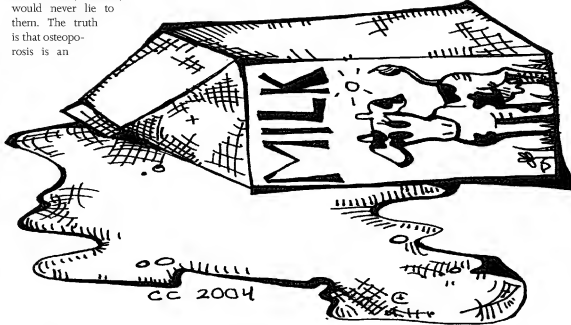
unknown disease in Africa, Asia and other parts of the world where dairy calcium consumption is, on average, one third of what it is in North America. Yet it's North Americans whose bones keep breaking despite calcium supplement pills, calcium-fortified orange juice and other such ridiculousness.

Robert Goodland, in his article "The Westernization of Diet: The Assessment of Impacts in Developing Countries" states that "bone fractures are highest where animal protein (ie, milk) intake is highest. ... The Harvard Nurses' Health Study, which followed 75 000 women for twelve years, showed no protective effect of

increased milk consumption on fracture risk. In fact, increased intake of dairy calcium was associated with higher fracture risk."

This is because the cause of bone weakening is not from a lack of calcium, but from an excess intake of animal protein (which, ironically, includes milk), the acidity of which necessitates a leeching of calcium from your bones to handle it.

So though I love cheese and yogurt, I'm not deluded enough to think that I need them in order to be healthy. But for many others, the dairy lobby continues to inflict its stance on what a healthy diet should be. It's time to wake up, people.



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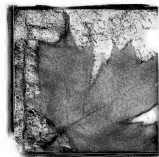
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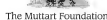
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# Point-counterpoint: is Edmonton really that great a city?

We're a lot like soup—nothing wrong, but nothing special



DAVID  
BERRY

Point

Let's face it Edmonton: when it comes right down to it, we're really not all that great. I mean, we're okay. We're certainly not all that bad. But when you take a good long look at our city, it's fairly obvious there's nothing that special about us.

Now, again, I'm not saying we're bad. This is a fine city. It's just not a particularly great city. As a city, really, Edmonton is sort of like soup. Nobody dislikes soup, but then, if all you had to eat for the rest of your life was some tepid broth with vegetables floating around in it, you wouldn't exactly be jumping for joy, would you? Of course not.

It's not that Edmonton doesn't have anything going for it—no, no. Edmonton has a bevy of decent to terrific things around. It's just that an awful lot of other places have an awful lot of way better things.

Case in point is our arts scene. Sure, Edmonton has a pretty decent scene, especially given our size. We host North America's largest theatre festival, which is really just a taste of one of Canada's strongest theatre communities, we have some fantastic bands, we even have the odd local artist doing some pretty interesting things. But let's keep this stuff in perspective. When was the last time, for example, an Edmonton band made a decent impact on the national, or to put it more in perspective, the international stage? (And, please, Nickelback doesn't count.)

Given our fantastic theatre community, how many actors, directors and writers have gone on to bigger and better things in a place like Los Angeles, or for that matter even a place like Toronto? But forget success on a larger stage—how many people have ever come to Edmonton to "make it big"? Or, for that matter, how many of those who are artistically inclined make a living in Edmonton solely from their art? I

know of a lot of bands, and they're pretty god-damn good bands, but almost all of them have day jobs. Keep in mind as well that as good as our scene might be, it lacks the lustre of even a place like Winnipeg, to use music as an example, or Montréal, if you're talking theatre. Again, it's good—but great? Eh.

And it doesn't end there. Edmonton is really just one gigantic heap of decent, not-bad-but-then-not-really-spectacular things. In terms of, say, architecture, there are some nice-looking buildings around here, but nothing compared to that of, say, a Vancouver or a San Francisco.

Sure, we've got some interesting little historical tidbits surrounding our city, but what city doesn't have that kind of thing? I'm sure if you delved into the history of Moncton you'd find more than your fair share of interesting historical anecdotes. To say nothing of the fact that all the little historical tidbits we've mustered in our 100 years of existence hardly compare to anything a place like Québec City—or, say, any city in Europe—has to offer.

Now, I suppose you could make the argument that comparing Edmonton to larger cities like Montréal or a gaggle of European cities isn't really valid, given things like our relatively small size. But, well, when we purport to call ourselves "world class"—and people other than Bill Smith do occasionally say things like that, particularly around the festival season, which is the height of our delusions of grandeur—we're going to have to stack ourselves up against cities like that. And the fact that we can't really compete with them on that level is sort of my point—we're kind of like the world's greatest second-class city. It's nice and all, but it's not number one.

And the worst part of all this is that this delusion of ours doesn't help us get any better. We've got some great things in this city—more than enough to form the base of what could grow into a vibrant, dynamic, spectacular city that actually deserves the title "world class." But we keep sitting back in denial, acting like we're a spectacular metropolis when we quite frankly aren't. It's high time we rid ourselves of this denial and started building a city that can be called great. It's high time that we stopped being soup.

Hey Dave, how about you go eat your damn soup in Toronto?



KRISTINE  
OWRAM

Counterpoint

I'm getting incredibly sick and tired of everyone I know repeatedly telling me how they can't wait to get out of this city.

"There's nothing to do in Edmonton. Every weekend it's the same thing: you go to Whyte Ave or you stay home and watch TV," they whine. "It's a hole in the middle of nowhere, and the city planners clearly have no foresight. Did I mention that the suburbs are ugly and Bill Smith is stupid? Man, I sure can't wait to graduate and move to [insert name of larger Canadian city here]." Honestly, I'm really starting to wish they would. Go ahead and move to Toronto, and then call me in a year and tell me if you still feel the same way about Edmonton.

Now, I'm not saying that a lot of the complaints about Edmonton aren't valid. I'll agree that very little foresight was shown in the development of this city's sprawling suburbs. And my confidence in the intelligence of the people who run Edmonton hasn't exactly been enhanced by the way downtown is currently being developed—endless condos and office buildings, without a grocery store or shopping core in sight.

What I hate the most about all you Edmonton nay-sayers is your refusal to admit that maybe, just maybe, these are problems characteristic of all relatively new cities across North America. I grew up in the south Edmonton suburbs and twice a year I go to the north Toronto suburbs to visit my family, and I can say without a hint of exaggeration that I have never seen history being destroyed so rapidly as in the old towns being swallowed up by the sprawling monster that is Toronto. Eighteenth- and 19th-century farmhouses are being torn down to make way for treeless, yardless, cut-and-paste subdivisions with names like "The Royal Palaces on Bayview." At least our suburbs are being built on empty fields, and at least we put some effort into making

our houses look different from one another.

All bitter comparisons with Toronto aside, however, I'm proud to call myself an Edmontonian for a multitude of reasons.

To start, anyone who says there's nothing to do in Edmonton just isn't trying. Not to use tired clichés, but there is a reason we call ourselves "Festival City." Our theatre community is so strong that we, a city of under a million people, can annually host one of the biggest Fringe festivals in the world, and we also manage to attract enough people to the Folk Festival every summer to make it one of the leading folk music events out there. We boast excellent sports teams (although maybe not quite as excellent as they once were). And, hey, as much as we love to complain about it, you have to admit that having the biggest mall in the world right in our backyard is pretty good for bragging rights.

On top of this, Edmonton has more green space than any other city in Canada. We have a huge river valley snaking from one end of the city to the other, over 460 parks, and—get this—an annual tree maintenance budget of \$2.6 million.

But, ultimately, it's not these things Edmontonians typically brag about that make this city great. Things like the Folk Fest and the Fringe and our green spaces really aren't that impressive in and of themselves—really, almost any city of comparable size has something to brag about—but they're great in their ability to bring us together. Going down to the Fringe with your friends and seeing half the city on Whyte Ave is a pretty amazing thing, and it creates a sense of community that I challenge you to find in any similar city.

No, Edmonton's not a "world-class" city, as much as Bill Smith would like us to believe it. But I argue that no city in Canada is world class, really. I mean, can we actually compare Toronto to New York, or Montréal to Paris, or Vancouver to San Francisco? Not really, just like we can't compare Edmonton to Chicago. But, for a relatively small Canadian city, we're pretty damned good at what we do, and I wouldn't give up what this city has to offer for anything. Well, except maybe a good job. And perhaps a little variety. But I'd still miss you, Edmonton.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: CORY WANLESS

**BUS FARE FOR T-DOT?** Edmonton has hobos, but other cities' hobos are just so much better.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: CORY WANLESS

**WHYTE ON** Don't underestimate Edmonton's fantastic community feel.





**A HOSPITAL WALL** This inexplicable splash of mud was a constant fixture of daily life in Cortona. I was sad when they cleaned it off.

## Mediterranean Emulsions

Photos and Words by Matt Frehner

*It's 7:30am on 9 January, 2004, and I have come to the abrupt conclusion that all photographers are closet masochists.* My reasoning: I am standing in line to go through security at Edmonton International Airport, en-route to Italy, where I will spend the next six months traveling and studying at the U of A school in Cortona, a small town in Tuscany.

I am attempting to explain that my 75-plus rolls of film are not, in fact, a bomb. Instead, I clarify, the emulsion on certain types of film just happens to contain one of the active ingredients in TNT. The friendly security guard proceeds to assess the working order of all five of my lenses, my flash, extension tubes, camera body, and miniature tripod for good measure.

My suspicions of masochism are confirmed by the back pain I am experiencing from the 30 pounds of camera gear and about 300 feet of film I'm carrying—a pain which will develop over the next six months into a chronic annoyance. Now, back in Edmonton, all I have to show for my troubles are misaligned shoulder blades and this feature. Masochistic indeed, my friends.



Italians don't take much of anything very seriously. Nothing, that is, except food. While living in Cortona, I felt the locals were taking extra care to make sure we understood the beauty of Italian cuisine. Not a hard concept to grasp, when \$3 buys a superior bottle of wine, and supplies to feed ten can be bought from the local green grocer for under \$30.

People have suggested that it was just the experience of being in Italy that gave the food its beautiful flavour. But perhaps it is the care and pride each person takes in their offerings—Italians expect a measure of quality, and it is delivered in spades. I've never had red peppers that crunchy anywhere else.



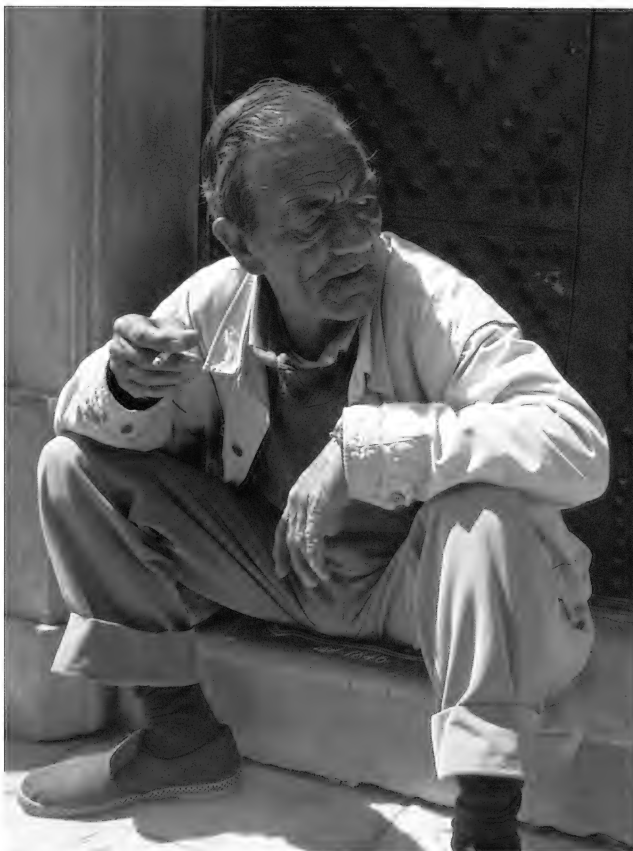
Carnevale in Italy is a major deal. Basically, all of Italy's Catholic majority takes February to indulge in as much excessive hedonism as possible before Lent begins and they'll all have to give up some beloved vice.

Throughout February, the streets and alleys of Cortona were littered with confetti. For our part, the romantic ideal of Carnevale led us to Venice, despite reports of rain and freezing temperatures. Armed with five litres of Italy's most economic vintage, we made the trip in warmth and comfort. When we arrived in Venice, however, our romantic visions quickly evaporated, becoming lost amidst the torrential downpour.

Though it was two in the afternoon, the sky was black. Since all the major festival events had been cancelled, the majority of our time was spent wandering the windy streets and ducking the rain in overly expensive trattorias, or Italian cafés. Luckily, the wine produced an impenetrable force-field of warmth around my body.

In the end, we spent about five hours dancing in the rain to some Italian DJ, who was most likely very mediocre, though I can't quite recall.

Thirty-three beautiful, sleepless hours passed before we returned to Cortona, our clothes destroyed and reeking of regurgitated canal water. Still, surprisingly, it was one of the greatest single days of my entire life. The spoils of this little adventure included a severe head cold, a permanently stained backpack, and five rolls of waterlogged, entirely destroyed film. Instead of those images, then, I offer these wholesome snapshots from Carnevale in Cortona. Their costumes outdid mine, anyhow.



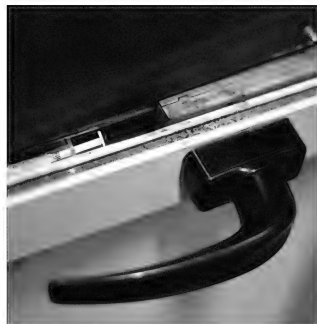
**FROM MY STEP I SEE ALL** Watching the passersby is a constant occupation for Italians.

The bay of Naples is awash with contrasts. Acres of lemon groves thrive along train lines, amidst 100 kilometres of urban sprawl. Rich jetsetters bask in the sun on Amalfi's beaches, while the poor shoot heroin in bathrooms at train stations. Hundred-thousand dollar cars rip down 2000-year-old alleyways, next to an entire family riding a single scooter. Neapolitan mafiosos put their unique type of pressure on archaeologists at Pompeii, because they see it as an ideal spot for a new highway.

Naples is a beautiful, depressing city. I spent only two days here, simply wandering the streets and recording elements of its everyday life with my camera. Even though most Neapolitans are very poor by our standards—their unemployment rate hovers around 50 per cent—there is a vivacity in these people that isn't easily ignored.



**STREET SHINER** The Neapolitan city in a nutshell: the high-class business man co-exists with the lower-class shoe shiner.



**YES, THAT'S HEROIN** In Naples, free bathrooms come at the cost of cleanliness. Here, a used needle is jammed into a stall doorframe.



**BEAUTIFUL, YET SHABBY** Two people chat in a doorway on a run-down street in Naples.



## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### Daisy Blue Groff (of Painting Daisies)

SUB Stage  
Friday, 24 September at 12pm

If you've heard of the Edmonton band Painting Daisies, you're no stranger to the band's co-founder, Daisy Blue Groff. Now sailing either solo or as the lead for all-girl cover band Lickety Split, this veteran U of A theatre student is basking in well-deserved attention garnered by her single "The World is a Minimalist" (the first song she's crooned all by her lonesome).

A sneak peek of her sexy, raspy vocals and easy-going guitar playing can be heard on her website, at [www.daisybluegroff.com](http://www.daisybluegroff.com).

If your classes happen to coincide with Daisy's SUB appearance, fear not. You can also catch her performing alongside Happy Kreter at Seedy's this Saturday night.

### Run Chico Run With Guests

Seedy's  
Friday, 24 September

Run Chico Run is elusive and mysterious, or so it seems, because the only thing featured on their "official" website ([www.runchicorun.com](http://www.runchicorun.com)) are crudely-drawn, animated

graphics of two naked monkey-aliens playing the keyboard and drums in a repetitive, and thus quite irritating, beat.

But the most accurate description of the Vancouver band's sound is that it's like "waking up from an erotic opium nod only to find a policeman with no teeth going through your pockets" ([www.newmusiccanada.com](http://www.newmusiccanada.com)).

A more tangible description of Run

Chico Run, though, is that they sound like the Mars Volta, Radiohead, and The Dears, all blended together in a delightful yet frightening musical cacophony. With music like this, who really needs, uh, opium?

### Edmonton Raga-Mala Music Society

Meditation on Bansuri  
Horowitz Theatre  
Saturday, 25 September at 7:30pm

The Raga-Mala Music Society formed in 1983 to promote the appreciation of East Indian culture through dance and music presented by East-Indian artists. Their most recent event features GS Sachdev, an internationally renowned musician who cleverly blends ancient tunes with his own improvisations.

Playing the bansuri (a northern Indian flute) for nearly 40 years eventually led to numerous recordings and a teaching career, training university students to transcend conventional classical-music boundaries through mastering pure tones and subtle rhythms.

Sachdev performs at the Horowitz this weekend, with all proceeds from ticket sales going to the Campus Food Bank. This is the perfect opportunity to break your Saturday night tradition of clubbing and drunken debauchery and partake in something a bit more high class.



ASIA SZKULAREK  
Computing Enthusiast



IF YOU GET CORNERED, BASH 'EM IN THE HEAD, THAT SEEMS TO WORK OUT Ed (Nick Frost) and Shaun (Simon Pegg) realize Z-Day is upon them.

## Zombie flick has heart and brains

British romantic comedy *Shaun of the Dead* breathes life into the zombie genre

### *Shaun of the Dead*

Directed by Edgar Wright  
Starring Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, and Kate Ashfield  
Silver City  
Sneak Preview on  
Friday, 24 September at 10pm

DANKASZOR  
Production Editor

Zombie movies are silly—the living dead is a rather oxymoronic concept, after all. And it takes a masterful filmmaker or an interesting twist to the genre to keep a zombie movie from being more than a schlocky joke.

*Shaun of the Dead* is a zombie movie, and it is at many times "silly," but by merging the conventions of serious, traditional zombie movies with dry British comedy, it proves to be a tremendously enjoyable flick.

The story follows a slacker named Shaun (Simon Pegg) who whines away his days in a London pub with his slob of a flatmate Ed (Nick Frost). His girlfriend Liz (Kate Ashfield) is frustrated that Shaun isn't doing anything with his life, and it gets to the point that the dumps him, fed up with his go-nowhere ways.

Shaun doesn't take the breakup so well, as the split with Liz ends a particularly terrible day—his sales job was more tedious and banal than normal, and his stepfather reamed him out for forgetting Mother's Day.

There's also one little detail of this terrible day: Shaun's a touch too thick to notice right away: there are a bunch of zombies rising from the dead to feast on the flesh of the living.

What makes *Shaun of the Dead* tick is sharp writing mixed with superb timing. The film is filled with dry humour of the most British variety—a style that depends on talented actors with the timing and delivery to make the jokes work. Without their skill, the film could have been

excruciatingly dull.

*Shaun of the Dead*'s humour is such a success because Simon Pegg not only plays the titular character, but also had a hand in writing the screenplay and casting the actors (who, incidentally, are mostly his friends from the popular English television show *Spaced*).

The other screenwriter, Edgar Wright, also directed the film. The two, having a fantastic vision for the film, knew exactly how they wanted scenes to play out, and were able to craft each scene to have maximum comedic potential.

A lot of the film's laughs rely on the relationship between Shaun and his best friend, Ed. With contrasting personalities, Ed annoys Shaun most of the time, but at no point does it seem strange that they are best mates.

The relationship comes across so well and so naturally that by the end of the film even fart jokes seem poignant.

The film isn't perfect, though. People who are turned off by rapid-paced British humour might

not find the film enjoyable, and the UK slang that peppers the movie, though it adds charm, is likely confusing for others.

And those who dislike zombie flicks in general won't get as much pleasure from the brain-eating backdrop that frames the story.

None of these things are major complaints though, and in fact, these aspects are much of what makes *Shaun of the Dead* such an interesting, different, and enjoyable movie.

*Shaun of the Dead* was a huge hit in Britain, grossing more than 28 Days Later and the Dawn of the Dead remake domestically.

It seems like quite the feat to us in Canada, considering the faces of the stars (though fairly recognizable in the UK) are relatively unknown here, and the marketing push for the film hasn't been particularly strong.

But don't let this one slip by. Not only is *Shaun of the Dead* one of the best zombie movies of the year, with an emotional and clever story, and fine performances, it's one of the best comedies of 2004.

## THE Z-WORD

There are a bloody lot of zombie movies these days, but *Shaun of the Dead* pays homage to several of the best. Here are some of the more notable references:

Shaun works at Force Electronics, which is named after Ken Force, an actor in the original *Dawn of the Dead*.

The TV reporters utter the exact same phrases as the

reporters in *Night of the Living Dead*.

The pizza of choice in *Shaun of the Dead* is "Bub's Pizza," named after a quick-witted zombie, Bubs, from *Day of the Dead*.

One news clip mentions a theory that the zombies were caused by rage-infected monkeys, a reference to *28 Days Later*.





# From one world to another

Veteran TV reporter Brenda Finley leaves journalism to direct Studio Theatre opener

## A Doll's House

Directed by Brenda Finley  
Starring Tiffani Mann and Collin Doyle  
Studio Theatre  
Timmins Centre for the Arts  
Opens Thursday, 23 September at 8pm

ASIA SKUDLARAK  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Brenda Finley has been around the world. Her successful career as a broadcast journalist has taken her to various corners of the globe, as far as the Middle East. She's worked for the CBC, CTV, and Global, and was once arrested and held in solitary confinement by the Israeli Defense Force.

Considering her seasoned career as a reporter, one might be baffled to hear that Finley has jumped from being a media maven to an MBA directing candidate at the U of A. But speaking with the good-natured Finley, she explains that what excites her these days is the theatre.

Finley is about to premiere her production of *A Doll's House*, the opening play for Studio Theatre's 2004/05 season. It's a play that Finley has strong memories of—the story stayed with her since watching a particularly powerful University of Calgary production of the play in the early '70s.

Having directed six plays over her two-year span as a U of A student, Finley is eager to talk about the play, and the post-modern approach she's taken in directing it.

"In my post-modern production, what I wanted to do is physically manifest the compartmentalization of a mind," reveals Finley. "There's an open-framed set with conflicting frames, children who are dolls, burlesque partially covering the costumes and furniture, and, on top of that, naturalistic, authentic actors."

It's a very contemporary take on a classic play. *A Doll's House* was written in 1879 by Norway's Henrik Ibsen, and with its controversial subject



PLAYING WITH DOLLS A scene from Studio Theatre's *A Doll's House*

matter, it sparked the official launch of the women's rights movement in the Western world.

Revolving around, yet not fully touching on, the issue of societal injustices in the 19th century, the plot follows 20-year-old Nora (Tiffani Mann), a wife and mother of three who finds herself a prisoner in her own home. Trapped in somewhat of a double life, Nora struggles to play the role of a dutiful wife and mother while keeping a financial scandal secret from her husband, Torvald (Collin Doyle).

The pressure of domestic and societal obligations ultimately leads Nora to behave in the most shocking,

unheard-of manner—by slamming the door on the fabricated institution that was her family.

Finley believes the play is easy to relate to because it explores a universal truth.

Focusing on uncovering the hidden meanings of each line in the text, one realizes that the message is that of endurance; being able to find the courage to leave the comfort of one world, and step into the pitch black of another.

"If you're looking for answers about how to move from one world to another, I think this play will speak to you."

# A little bit country and a little punk rock 'n roll

## The Uncas CD Release Party

with Funktion  
Sidetrack Café  
Saturday, 25 September at 8pm

DAVID BRIGGS  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Don't let the "country" label fool you. Edmonton's The Uncas are much more than your typical pickup truck-driving, Stetson-wearing caterwauling cowboys. Though there's definitely a fair share of country in them—from their twangy musical leanings to the band members' rural roots—The Uncas incorporate whatever style serves them best to get their signature sound.

As bass player Futch explains, "We do play rock music, but we're a little bit too country for rock, we're a little too punk for punk, but we're too punk and too rock for country."

According to Futch, the band is "more about live music than any genre." And considering The Uncas' melding of genres assures a little bit of something for everyone, it's not hard to understand how they can claim to be such a crowd-pleasing band.

This Saturday at the Sidetrack, The Uncas are hoping to play audiences some of that live music genre they're all about. The concert is a CD release party for their first album, *Sunny Uncas*.

Working on an album was a unique experience for the band, giving them an opportunity to focus on the music

craft away from the familiar lights of the stage.

"At the same time as being a fan bar band, we're definitely more than that," he says. "We have four songwriters in the band, and we have a lot of really good song writing."

Futch is certain there's also some substance to back up the flash of their live performances. And the band has had their fair share of live experience as of late, recently completing a brief tour of Western Canada. Although the touring is on hiatus—at least until the warmer weather arrives—there will still be opportunities to see them in and around Edmonton.

Exposure is usually difficult for a new band, but The Uncas were lucky enough to attract a fan that was able to give them some guidance: local alt-country star Corb Lund. Lund took the band under his wing, bringing them to his shows as an opening act, explains Futch. Though the Corb Lund Band and The Uncas are similar in their countercultural aural ideology, Futch is quick to point out the two groups have some major differences.

"We're not as traditional, rootsy country as he is, but we definitely try to bring in the old time sounds, the old time kind of country sound, but we probably blend it a little bit more with punk, funk and rock," says Futch.

The Uncas aren't about to be tied down by any genre, and with a little luck, audiences and record buyers will be roped into digging their rock-injected country twang.



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# Sad songs and success

## Stabilo

with *Doubling Paris and Tourist*  
Powerplant  
Saturday, 25 September at 8:30pm

MICHAEL LAROUCHE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When most young bands first start—banging around in their parents' garage—staying together is their first priority, never mind cutting records, getting signed to a label, and having one of their songs become a radio sensation. However, it's been ten years since Stabilo was a bunch of kids banging out tunes in a garage.

The Vancouver-based acoustic-rock four-piece has managed to hit the big time—signing to a major label and releasing a breakthrough song. That song, however, is "Everybody," a track that was written back when the band only had sticking together on their mind.

"It's a little strange," muses Jesse Dryfhaut, singer-songwriter. "The song is eight years old and we first stopped playing it maybe three years after we first recorded it, mostly because it was just an old tune and we were moving on to new things. But then when we did our album, a guy that was recording with us told us that we totally had to put it on the record, so we did."

Stabilo may have to introduce themselves to a new base of potential fans, but they've already cut their teeth in the indie-rock scene, earning respect both from the fans (they pushed more than 5000 copies of their self-released albums) and the critics (they were the

only independent group to be nominated in the Best New Rock Band category at the 2003 Radio Music Awards). Their hard work was ultimately acknowledged by industry heads earlier this year when they signed with EMI Canada, and released their debut mainstream album, *Cupid*, composed of both new and old material.

**"Acoustic rock isn't a bad label, but it doesn't really sum us up. We got compared to Hootie and the Blowfish a while back, and I was a little offended. I always hope we'll be compared to Dave Matthews or someone like that..."**

JESSE DRYHAUT,  
STABILO VOCALIST

How the band feels about placing their old tunes on their most recent release is another matter.

"It's good and it's bad. There's some familiarity with it, but it's stuff we've been performing for years and sometimes you get sick of playing it," says Dryfhaut. "But now that people at shows actually raise their hands in the air when you ask them to and people just start to go crazy, it really rejuvenates the songs and

makes them fun to play again; as long as we continue to reinvent the style that we play in and tweak our music here or there, it'll keep it interesting for both us and the fans."

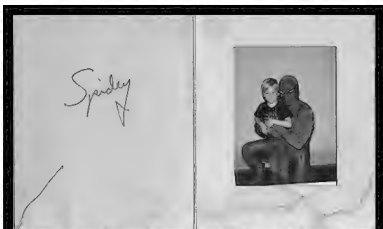
While continuing to reinvent themselves is a move that will surely keep their sound fresh, many music fans have yet to experience Stabilo's unique blend of smooth rock vocals and acoustic guitar. Still, Dryfhaut has no hard time describing his music.

"Depressing," he laughs, explaining his songs mostly focus on gloomy subject matter.

"But music just sort of happens during those times. You only really reach out or express yourself when things are shiny. I think that's kind of where my music comes from. Not all of it, but lyrically most of it is pretty dark—I've never enjoyed happy music that much."

It would seem that lately there's been plenty of reason for Stabilo to play "happy music," what with pushing a new album, winning over a new faction of listeners, and rock stardom all on the horizon for the troupe. But for now, focusing on their music is their number-one goal—striving to win over listeners despite the stigma of the acoustic-rock label.

"Acoustic rock isn't a bad label, but it doesn't really sum us up. We got compared to Hootie and the Blowfish a while back, and I was a little offended. I always hope we'll be compared to Dave Matthews or someone like that, but we'll see," Dryfhaut comments with quiet laughter. "Maybe someday."



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*Shark Tale* is the story of Oscar (Will Smith), a fast-talking little fish whose big dreams have a habit of landing him in hot water. Lenny (Jack Black) is a great white shark with a sensitive side, and a secret—he's a vegetarian. When a great white like turns Oscar into an inner-bubble hero and the truth about Lenny makes him an outcast, these two become the most unlikely of friends.

For your chance to score a Dreamworks prize pack, including a double guest pass to a special screening of *Shark Tale* on Monday, 27 September e-mail [contest@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:contest@gateway.ualberta.ca) with the name of Will Smith's long-time musical buddy (DJ).

Opens in theatres Friday, 1 October.



ELIZABETH VAIL  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Jorane puts a surprising level of orchestration into her seventh CD, *The You and the Now*.

An army of strings, clarinets, and horns weaves her music into a swelling upsurge of sound that never fits into any precise genre.

Sometimes it has a country twang; on other songs it has a Middle Eastern slant.

*The You and the Now* is a multitude of sounds that comes together

as an even mix of catchy and tedious anthems.

The album is also the first CD on which Jorane has sung lyrics instead of allowing her rich voice, brushed with a slight Québec accent, to remain an untamed instrument along with the flutes, drums, and cellos. So now, on *The You and the Now*, to access the rolling ocean of her songs, the listener has to wade through the sticky, senseless muddle of her verse.

Her lyrics are not only bewildering, but unnecessary; the magic of her music is language enough.

## Jorane

*The You and the Now*  
Aquarius Records  
[www.jorane.com](http://www.jorane.com)

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NATHAN WILEY HIGH LOW



Nathan Wiley  
*High Low*  
Sonic Records  
[www.nathanwiley.com](http://www.nathanwiley.com)

MARK WOYTUK  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Listening to *High Low*, it seems that when struggling to create an album, singer-songwriter Nathan Wiley figures the best place to start is with old ideas.

Wiley's record claims to be a "rich fusion of roots, pop, rock, and blues"—all ideas that have been worked and reworked by singer-songwriters since rock met roll.

There's nothing new about Wiley's record, and none of *High Low*'s

claimed inspirations are anything but mediocre. The pop element is plastic, the blues are not blue at all but grey (the sallow grey of unexceptional) and the rock element is more gravely than anything. If you mix these components together you'll get a dull coagulate that one might label Wiley's brand of pop-rock fusion.

The rustic intimacy typically associated with a good album of the singer-songwriter genre is buffed away to a studio shine on *High Low*; giving it a factory-press aura that is simply boring.

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# Coffee and Cigarettes addictingly funny

## Coffee and Cigarettes

Directed by Jim Jarmusch  
Starring Roberto Benigni,  
Steve Buscemi, Iggy Pop, Tom Waits,  
Cate Blanchett, Jack White, Meg White,  
GZA, RZA, and Bill Murray  
Metro Cinema  
24-27 September at 9pm

ADAM GAUMONT  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

A woman sits by herself, looking through a gun magazine; another meets her movie-star cousin in an upscale hotel; Bill Murray attempts to disguise himself as a waiter while talking with members of the Wu Tang Clan. Steven Wright gets Roberto Benigni to go to the dentist for him.

What do these and other seemingly random (and definitely strange) scenarios have to do with each other? Not much, other than the fact that all of the parties involved are sitting around, neurotically smoking cigarettes and compulsively pounding back the coffee.

This is the premise of *Coffee and Cigarettes*, a delightfully weird series of eleven short films by Jim Jarmusch. Shot intermittently between 1986 and 2003, each little vignette of this 17-year endeavour features the curious and relatively insignificant interactions of a small group of quirky characters. Some are wickedly funny self-parodies of vain and insouciant B-list celebrities, while others depict everyday nobodies and their trivial, Seinfeldian discourse.

One of the more memorable segments is "Somewhere in California" (each short has its own cryptic title),

which features brilliant performances by musicians Iggy Pop and Tom Waits. In contrast to their quasi-hardcore public personas, both come off as very down-to-earth, and provide us with an empty, confusing, and hilariously unpredictable conversation (the scene has an improvised feel) that ultimately, as is the trend throughout the movie, goes nowhere.

In the self-explanatory "Jack Shows Meg His Tesla Coil," Jack and Meg White of the White Stripes ditch their rock-star status and show us their needy sides.

**We see that movie stars, rock stars, and common, everyday blue-collar types all share some common ground: everyone gets trapped in awkward conversations, everyone gets caught up in the day-to-day trivialities of life.**

As the title suggests, Jack shows Meg the Tesla coil that he has created on his own. Not to be caudone, however, Meg comes up with a solution as to why it fails, impressing Jack—and the audience, for that matter—with her knowledge of things like spark gaps and GIFs.



MAKE MINE A DOUBLE-DOUBLE RZA, GZA, and Bill Murray are not in a Tim Hortons in *Coffee and Cigarettes*.

But perhaps the best scene is saved for the second to last. It stars Bill Murray, hoarse with a smoker's cough, discussing holistic medicine with none other than RZA and GZA of the Wu Tang Clan. This strange and relentlessly amusing sketch relies primarily on Murray's genius at playing the weirdo, but is augmented by the surprisingly convincing work by the rappers.

Each scene, shot in black and white and invariably depicting a coffee-table setting, offers a candid glimpse

into strange and awkward situations. Despite its random and chaotic content, however, this film consistently laces several themes and underlying messages throughout its eleven vignettes. We see that movie stars, rock stars, and common, everyday blue-collar types all share some common ground: everyone makes small talk, everyone gets trapped in awkward conversations, everyone gets caught up in the day-to-day trivialities of life.

But perhaps the most significant and recurrent theme, as light-hearted

as the approach may be, is that of neuroses and compulsion.

Everyone, to various degrees of severity and for various reasons, drinks and smokes to feel their own addictions and desires. In other words, they are all, as Tom Waits aptly points out, part of the "coffee and cigarettes generation."

Whether one can relate to this lifestyle, or simply wishes to see another side of some of their favourite actors, this quirky and uproariously funny series of shorts is a must-see.

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# The Sun Never Sets causes literary sunburn

## The Sun Never Sets

By Federico Morales  
FreedRow Publishing

JAMIS STORRIE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

So, here's the idea: we take *Catcher in the Rye*, dumb the writing down to grammar school-level, set it in BC and make it about socialism.

That's the shaky premise first-time novelist Federico Morales has courageously tackled with a questionable degree of success in his book *The Sun Never Sets*.

*The Sun Never Sets* (don't let the pretentious title fool you—this is one very quick and easy read—but more on that later) focuses on the aimless and generally uninteresting life of angst-y 20-something Paul, a fellow fresh out of university and brimming with anti-enthusiasm.

Paul doesn't really accomplish much during the first half of the book—save for breaking his own leg—and while the pacing is slow and the writing simple, these faults are potentially forgivable during this first section. What follows, however, doesn't get off so easily.

Morales' back-cover synopsis claims that Paul is an aspiring socialist who falls into a life of hedonism—it's a statement of dubious accuracy.

While Paul does talk a lot of trash about those thriving bourgeois liberals, his socialism tends to be restricted to making snide comments to his working friends while continuing to sponge off of his parents. In the end, Paul's superficial demeanor becomes a refreshing contrast to

Morales' own cloyingly preachy narrative.

We are taken from the suburbs to a welfare line and a Native reservation via Vancouver's grimy streets, but Morales only pauses long enough at each setting to overtly point out the evils of the world, and never truly engages the reader in any one situation. As for Paul's hedonism—well, smoking a few joints and having sex every few months does not a hedonist make, as any Lister resident can attest.

Morales' shallow, proselytizing narrative is the least of the reader's worries; the dialogue is a literary minefield. Every conversation approaches pretension of catastrophic proportions; not even Paul's stoner friends speak like normal human beings. Morales' characters sneakily eschew normal speech patterns in favour of the dry, complex rhetoric of political manifestos, dialogue that is, ironically, far more complex than Morales' narrative. Though Morales' plodding descriptions aren't exactly challenging for anyone beyond a ninth-grade reading level, his robotic dialogue is tough to tackle, even for the most literate.

Still, *The Sun Never Sets* does have its redeeming qualities: it's short, for one; there is ultimately no real character development or resolution to the plot (a refreshingly pessimistic choice), and Morales is wise enough to steer clear of any clichéd epiphanies; Morales' drawn out descriptions of Vancouver and British Columbia are sure to bring a smile to any ex-pat West-Coaster; and, oh yes, there is one sex scene.

The novel's faults just keep piling up against it, though, and by the end one ends up more aggravated than satisfied. Re-reading *Catcher in the Rye* would be a much better choice.

# Holding out for a folk-hero



## Howard Zinn: You Can't Be Neutral On a Moving Train

Directed by Deb Ellis and Howard Mueller

Narrated by Matt Damon

Metro Cinema

24-27 September at 7pm

PATRICK ROSS  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Before Michael Moore, Tom Morello or Jello Biafra, there was Howard Zinn. While in recent years, the voices of people such as Biafra, Morello, and (these days, especially) Moore have risen to the forefront of political dissent, there is little doubt that without inspiration from voices such as Howard Zinn's, their prominence would not have been possible.

Howard Zinn: *You Can't Be Neutral On a Moving Train* is the story of this thoughtful, outspoken and courageous historian. It follows his inauspicious birth into an impoverished working-class family in New York to his service in World War II to his eventual rise as one of the premiere alternative historians of his day.

Filmmakers Deb Ellis and Dennis Mueller bring Zinn's story to life. Slowly and decisively, the man's tale unfolds.

It begins as the story of a lower-class boy from New York—a boy with a love of authors such as Charles Dickens—and weaves into how Zinn's growing desire for truth and justice motivated him to become a strong voice that would contribute to such important moments in American history as the civil rights movement and the peace movement.

From one point of view, *You Can't Be Neutral On a Moving Train* is a story of power and responsibility. Particular attention is paid to the many times when Zinn took risks—risks to his freedom, his career, and on occasion, his very life—in order to fulfill what he himself describes as his duty.

The film essentially claims Zinn as an American hero, and if one is in search of an impartial view of history and Zinn's role in it as a historian and an activist, this is not that film. Of course, the most important aspect of this film is its exploration of Zinn's life and a rather flattering portrait of Zinn

is painted through his many roles: Howard Zinn the child, the husband, the soldier, the historian, the author, and the playwright. Underlying all of these, however, is one role that becomes overwhelmingly dominant: Howard Zinn the folk hero.

And the "character" of folk hero Zinn has great appeal. Far from pretentious, Zinn seems to be the inspirational everydayman, despite his academic profile—the movie's rags-to-riches story is inspiring to anyone.

It should be said, though, that the documentary's stance towards Zinn seems particularly fitting considering how Zinn was known for passionately rejecting impartiality as passive, instead espousing the need for a proactive approach to social problems (this idea is alluded to in the film's title). Zinn is unapologetic about his impartiality; dissent, he argues, is the language of democracy. It's one belief that makes this biography/political opus so captivating. *Howard Zinn: You Can't Be Neutral On a Moving Train* is a well-written, well-assembled film that is well worth watching.



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# SPORTS

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## Soccer squads ready for home openers



FACING CHALLENGES HEAD-FIRST The Bears are at the top of the CIS soccer hill.



4 pm Friday  
Foote Field



2:15pm Sunday  
Foote Field

## Defending champ Bears a target

CHRIS O'LEARY  
Sports Writer

They're ranked as the top team in the country as the university soccer season gets underway, but for the Golden Bears, a repeat of last year's national championship win isn't going to be a cakewalk.

If the players didn't believe head coach Len Vickery as he stressed that when they began training earlier this month, they got their wake-up call this past weekend against the Calgary Dinos. On the verge of wrapping up what would have been a convincing 3-0 win, the Bears let the Dinos sneak back into the game in its dying minutes and tie the match in injury time. Vickery warned: his team that they would be a target this season; the draw in Calgary confirmed it.

With the Bears opening their home schedule against the Trinity Western Spartans and Victoria Vikes on Friday and Sunday, respectively, life on top for the Bears is only going to get more difficult.

"We're expecting Trinity Western and Victoria to be two of the top teams in the Canada West conference," Vickery said. "Playing both of them is going to make for a tough weekend."

Friday's match up against Trinity Western should be an intriguing one, as it will be the first time the teams have faced each other since the Bears defeated the Spartans to claim the Canada West championship last fall. With the

memories of their defeat at the paws of the Bears still fresh, Trinity Western will likely have revenge in mind. But Vickery will not be making any adjustments on the Spartans' account; instead he says that the Bears will need to take it upon themselves to simply outplay their visitors.

"We know they're going to be a tough squad with good players in all positions, so the onus is on us a little bit to get our act together," he said.

Their recent lapse against Calgary aside, Vickery says he believes his team is developing. He seems pleased with the effort put in by his younger players, and is enthused about getting some of his veterans back into game condition.

"We've got one or two players who are just coming back into playing shape now—they haven't played yet this season," he said. "We're hoping they'll be fit to play for Friday."

The return of the vets will be a welcome addition to the youthful energy that's been supplied by rookie midfielder John Konye, who was named the Canada West male athlete of the week for his offensive prowess. Konye has scored three goals in his first two conference games as a Bear.

"The team as it stands is pretty strong," Vickery said. "We've got some good, young players who've come in. We'd like to have some of our more injured, senior players back in the lineup, because this weekend we're going to need all of the strength we can muster."



2 pm Friday  
Foote Field



12pm Sunday  
Foote Field

## Pandas hoping to bounce back

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI  
Sports Writer

Coming off a disappointing opening weekend against two of the lesser lights of Canada West, the soccer Pandas (1-1-0) will have to step up their game this weekend when they open their home schedule against the powerhouse Trinity Western Spartans (1-1-0) and Victoria Vikes (1-0-1).

The Pandas were ranked seventh in the nation heading into last weekend, but after an impressive 3-1 win in Lethbridge they fell flat against the unranked Calgary Dinos Sunday, losing 3-0 and slipping to the ninth-place ranking.

"It's going to take us a couple weeks to all get on the same page," said Pandas head coach Kelly Vandergriff. "We've got a good skilled team, and if we can correct the mistakes that came up last weekend we are going to be a team that other teams are going to have to look out for."

It was a dog fight down to the wire last season to determine whether the Pandas or Spartans would capture the final playoff spot in Canada West, a battle the Pandas eventually won. The conference is looking to be even tighter this year, and Vandergriff accordingly expects a demanding game Friday.

"It's going to be a tough game because the Spartans are a very strong team and they are very attack-oriented. Whether they play with two or three up front they are very fast and have skilled players that, if given an opportunity, will punish you," said Vandergriff. "We'll have to be at our

best, because if we aren't we'll be in trouble." "Trinity Western is a very physical team," added defender Andrea Aitkenhead, a second-team all-Canadian last year. "They play very tough down the centre of the field, have very strong forwards and their keeper was a first-team Canada West all-star last year, so it should be a good test for us."

The weekend will only get tougher for the Pandas on Sunday, when they face ninth-ranked Victoria. The Vikes scored ten goals in a rout of the Regina Cougars last weekend, and will pose a stern test for the Pandas defense.

"They battle and always play right to the final whistle," Vandergriff said of the Vikes. "They do have some injuries, but when those players get in, even if it's only for 30 minutes, they're quality minutes. If we give them anything they'll take advantage of it, so we really have to play together."

Regardless of who they're facing, Vandergriff said there are several areas where the Pandas must improve if they expect to have a chance of winning this weekend.

"We need to learn to defend better as a team. We didn't do a good job of that last week in Calgary," she said. "I would also like to see our forwards play better; they need to play a little bit grittier, and we're a little too nice at this point. It's getting to that point where we need our strikers to win more balls."

But while the weekend will definitely be a challenge for the Pandas, Vandergriff says they're glad to be playing at home.



FIGHT FOR IT The Pandas are eager to show that last weekend's loss to Calgary was an anomaly.

# Wickenheiser, Campbell and company to play at Clare Drake

## Hockey Pandas prepare to host star-laden Calgary Oval X-Treme Friday night

JANET LO  
Sports Writer

After losing for the first time in over two years last Sunday, the Pandas have little time to recover before they face an even tougher challenge: the best women's hockey club in the world.

In a 7pm Friday exhibition at Clare Drake Arena, the Pandas will host the Calgary Oval X-Treme, reigning champions of the National Women's Hockey League (NWHL). The X-Treme boast a stellar lineup of Olympic and world champions, including household hockey names such as Hayley Wickenheiser, Cassie Campbell, Danielle Goyette, Dana Antal, Kelly Bechard, and Colleen Sostorics, all members of the Canadian national team. They also feature talent from the Canadian under-22 team, including defenders Kerri Wallace and Melanie Gagnon, and goaltender Brittany Chantier.

Pandas head coach Howie Draper said that his team, which is accustomed to thoroughly dominating its competition in Canada West conference play, will have to take a unique approach to this game.

"The Oval's got an outstanding team, and we want to be competitive," he said. "You can't put a lot of stock into whether you win or lose. The most important thing is you want to make an impression of some kind, and you want it to be a positive impression."

But coming off Sunday's disappointing 1-0 loss to the Edmonton Chimos,

Draper admits that improvements will need to be made if the Pandas are to stay competitive on Friday.

"We've been juggling lines up a little bit, and we may try to get something somewhat solidified over the course of the week," he said. "We're going to have to look at our power-play lines per se this weekend ... We haven't even talked about the power-play yet, really. So we're going to have to run through some of our basic systems and try to pop some people into those systems."

**"You can't put a lot of stock into whether you win or lose. The most important thing is you want to make an impression of some kind, and you want it to be a positive impression."**

**HOWIE DRAPER,  
PANDAS HOCKEY HEAD COACH**

All-star Pandas defender Delaney Collins-Pye, herself a member of Team Canada, played with the Oval X-Treme for four years before coming to the Pandas last season. She said she's looking forward to facing her former teammates.

"I always think that it's easier to

play against a team you used to play with, because you know the girls and there's a rivalry there," she said. "It should be fun."

The X-Treme were NWHL champions in each of the past two years and earned gold and silver medals at the 2003 and 2004 Esso Women's National Hockey Championships. They'll definitely provide the Pandas with a challenge the likes of which the three-time defending CIS champions have not faced in some time. Collins-Pye warned that there will be no room for error on Friday.

"One of their big game plans is puck possession, so we're going to have to get on the puck first and make sure we're in control of the puck a lot during the game," she said. "The puck movement is going to be fast, so as defencemen, we've got to be aware. They're going to try to sneak in behind us, and it's going to be extremely challenging, because they're very strong and very speedy."

But while the Pandas, for the first time in a very long time, will definitely be the underdogs Friday, Collins-Pye still displayed confidence that they'll be able to match up with the X-Treme.

"We're going to have to play our hearts out. On paper they're a better team, but you never know what can happen in a small arena."

Later in the weekend, the Pandas will also have two chances to avenge their loss to the Chimos. They'll play each other Saturday at 7pm and Sunday at 2:30pm, both at Clare Drake.



**MOST X-TREME CHALLENGE** The Pandas will face a tougher test than usual when they face the Calgary Oval X-Treme.

FILE PHOTO: NICK WEBER



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- Introductory remarks
- Approval of 2003-2004 GSJS Audit (Ellis, Govenlock LLP)
- Announcements
- Refreshments

All members (ie, those with three or more Gateway contributions in the 240 days prior to October 7th) are asked to attend. This meeting is also open to the public.

For more information, please contact the Chair of the Board of Directors at [gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca) or visit <http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gsjs/>

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# Point-counterpoint: whose fault is it, anyway?

## NHL owners are to blame for lockout



JAKE  
TROUGHTON

Point

Picture, if you will, a man who develops a bit of a taste for some of the finer depravities in life. At first this man is reasonably responsible in satisfying his desires, opting for the occasional tinkle at some of the most upscale gentlemen's clubs. But he just can't control himself, and before you know it, he's forging grant applications to finance his Orgasmatron research at his new twelve-story, 24-hour Centre for Heroin Injection and Prostitution.

It's clear who's to blame in this situation: those liquor-store owners and ladies of the evening who the man gave all his money to as he degenerated into a pathetic sponge should be ashamed of themselves. I mean, really, can you imagine having someone offer you large piles of money for something you want—and taking it? Why, the very idea that anyone would do that is downright sickening.

Or, you know, maybe not. In fact, now that I think about it, it's preposterous to place the blame anywhere but squarely on the shoulders of the man himself. What the hell was I thinking?

I don't know, but apparently it was the same thing that millions of misguided hockey fans are thinking when it comes to the NHL lockout, leading them to blame the players, rather than the owners, for the unfortunate situation.

Seriously, there is absolutely nothing the NHL owners have ever done that should elicit even the tiniest bit of sympathy. The players didn't just magically start commanding the owners to pay them ridiculous and unsustainable salaries; the owners willingly—and in most cases, eagerly—lined up to pay them.

It's ridiculous to claim that the players are responsible for the current work stoppage. They've done only what anyone would do—take the best paychecks they're offered. The truth is, they're simply being paid what the market says they're worth. It's not their fault the market is run by a legion of cowardly Dave Berry-esque simpletons.

## Players won't admit anything's wrong



DAVE  
BERRY

Counterpoint

Oh, Jake, you simple, ignorant fool. It's so easy to blame the owners, isn't it? Simply because they were a little shortsighted when it came to handing out gigantic contracts they couldn't possibly afford doesn't mean they're the ones to blame in this whole lockout thing. It means they're remarkably stupid, I'll grant you, but when it comes to this whole labour dispute, it's the players who are the ones trading in their helmets for dunce caps.

Seriously, now. The owners really did a nice job of shooting themselves in the foot, then in the knee, then in the groin with all their reckless spending throughout the '90s, but at least they're learning from their mistakes. The players don't seem to realize that the NHL can't possibly go on like it has been. To say nothing of the fact that several teams have been on the verge of bankruptcy over the past ten years, the majority of the franchises in the league were in the red last year. Yes, it's the owners' fault for doing that, but again, at least they have the foresight to realize that they can't keep up like this.

It's time for the players to close their already fat pocketbooks and listen to reason. A salary cap, while detrimental to players' bank accounts, is the only way to keep the NHL fiscally sustainable. I mean, honestly, the NHL and NBA have salary caps, and they're the top two leagues in North America. That hockey, which makes infinitely less money, can't agree to some limits on spending is ludicrous.

And another thing: if I was a player under 28 in the NHL, I'd be right pissed at my union right now. Due to the bullheadedness of some of the older players and the Players' Association brass, there might not be professional-level hockey for some time. Sure, if the NHL folks, they'll probably be a league to replace it, but that takes time to organize—time young players without already fat pockets don't have to waste. Honestly, it's time for the players to wake up so we can all go back to filling our heads with delusions of the Oilers making the playoffs this year.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Football

The third-ranked Golden Bears (3-0) will travel to Burnaby on Saturday night to face the ninth-ranked Simon Fraser Clan (1-1). A win would keep the Bears in first place in the Canada West standings and virtually assure them of a playoff spot. This will be the first meeting between the teams since last year's conference final, also at Simon Fraser, which the Clan won 28-18. The game will be broadcast live on CJSR FM88 at 8pm Saturday, with a pre-game show at 7:30pm.

Canada West football action begins earlier Saturday, when the Saskatchewan Huskies (2-1) host the Manitoba Bisons (1-2) at 1:30pm at Griffiths Field in Saskatoon. The Huskies currently sit in second place in the conference and are ranked fifth in CS. The UBC Thunderbirds (1-1) host the Regina Rams (0-2) in the other game this weekend. The 1-2 Calgary Dinos have a bye.

There will also be CS football action on television this weekend. Saturday at noon, The Score will have its cameras rolling when the second-ranked McMaster Marauders visit the seventh-ranked Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks.

### Field Hockey

The Pandas field hockey team begins its season this weekend at the first Canada West tournament, hosted by UBC. They'll open up tomorrow at 5pm against the host Thunderbirds, the defending national champions. They'll play last year's silver medalists, the Victoria Vikes, at the same time Saturday, before wrapping up the weekend at noon Sunday against the Calgary Dinos. The Pandas will host the 2004 CS national championships at 7pm November at Foote Field.

### Women's Soccer

The hapless Regina Cougars will have their best week of the season thus far, as the 0-5 squad will play only once. Tonight they'll host the seventh-ranked Victoria Vikes (1-0-1), who beat them 10-1 last weekend in Victoria. The Cougars have been outscored 35-4 so far this season.

Tomorrow at noon, the Vikes will play another wireless squad in the Saskatchewan-Huskies (0-2) in Saturday's lone game, the Calgary Dinos (0-2) will face the top-ranked UBC Thunderbirds (2-0-1) in Calgary Sunday, the Thunderbirds travel to Lethbridge to face the 3-1 Pronghorns, who are currently sitting in first place early in the season but are unranked nationally. The Trinity Western Spartans (1-1) visit the Huskies Sunday in the other game of the week.

### Men's Soccer

The Canada West men's soccer action kicks off tomorrow with the Victoria Vikes (1-1) visiting the Saskatchewan-Huskies (0-2) at 2pm Saturday, the tenth-ranked UBC Thunderbirds (1-1) travel to Calgary to face the Dinos (1-0-1), before heading to Lethbridge for a 2pm Sunday match against the Pronghorns (1-1) Sunday, the sixth-ranked Trinity Western Spartans (1-1) face the Huskies in Saskatoon.

### Swimming

The Bears and Pandas swim teams open their season tomorrow afternoon with the intra-squad Green and Gold Meet at the Winslow and Christian Hamilton Memorial Pool in the Van Vleet Centre.

### Women's Volleyball

The Pandas, last year's national silver medalists, travel to Regina for a pre-season tournament this weekend.

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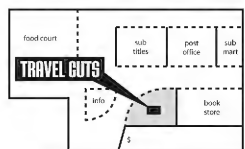
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# University Cup hockey headed to Rexall Place

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Sports Editor

The University of Alberta will try to take the CIS men's hockey championships to the next level in March, when the final three games of the tournament will be played at Rexall Place, it was announced yesterday.

Moving to the home of the Edmonton Oilers from the cozy Clare Drake Arena on campus presents several challenges, both financial and in terms of athletics department resources, as the event's organizing committee tries to fill the 17,000-seat venue. But the financial aspect has been made easier by the signing of a title sponsor—the event will be known as the Telus University Cup—and U of A athletics director Kim Gordon said she's confident that her department is prepared to make the move work.

"We've been building up," she said. "We've run volleyball nationals, and with all the other nationals we've run, across the country we probably have the most staff who have expertise in hosting, and I think it's ready to go to the next step."

There's a strong possibility that the current NHL lockout will last long enough to keep the league from playing in March, and while Gordon stresses that she'd like to see that situation resolved, she admits that the labour stoppage could give the tournament an important opening in the public eye.

"I think there's a big opportunity here for us to profile university sport in a different way, maybe better than anyone else has done it in the country," said Gordon. "It's an opportunity for

us to capitalize on starving fans who are really interested in seeing some good hockey. Next year, hopefully there won't be a strike and people will have seen enough of university hockey to come back and say, 'Let's take a look at that again.'"

The Golden Bears, who suffered a disappointing semi-final loss at last year's nationals, are once again early favourites to contend for the championship. But Bears head coach Rob Daum says that neither the home venue nor the prospect of a large crowd will create added pressure for his team.

"We've faced pressure every year that we've gone to nationals," said Daum. "We've done a terrific job of putting pressure on our team for a variety of different reasons. This is a unique situation, but I don't think the pressure's going to be any different than it has been in the past. Hopefully we can use it to our advantage."

As hosts, the Golden Bears will get an automatic berth in the six-team tournament, though they've earned spots in it in each of the last eight seasons. Daum insists, though, that the free pass won't alter the way he approaches the season.

"Each season our goal is always to play in the university championships, and this year we can guarantee that we will be," said Daum. "But nothing's going to change as far as our focus. Our goal is still to finish first in our league, win the Canada West championship and move from there. ... We're hoping that being at home will be a real positive for us, and getting to play at Rexall Place with 17,000 people in the stands is going to be a huge benefit for our team."



GOLDEN BEARS GO TO THE DRUG STORE U of A athletics director Kim Gordon addressed the press yesterday.

JEFFREY GREENBLAU

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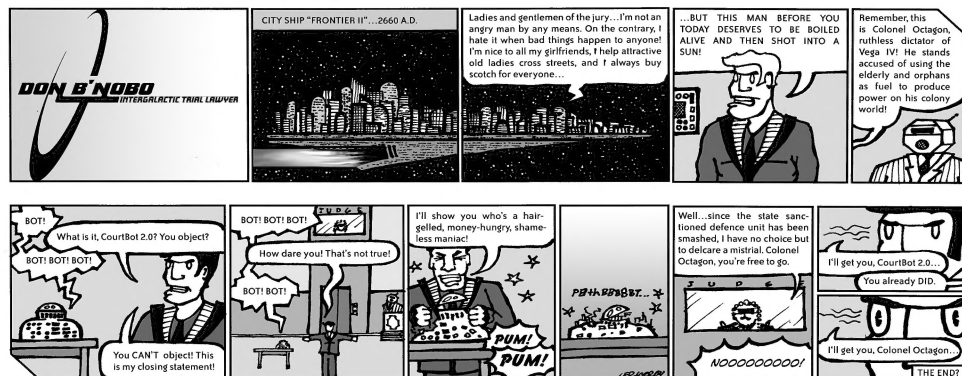




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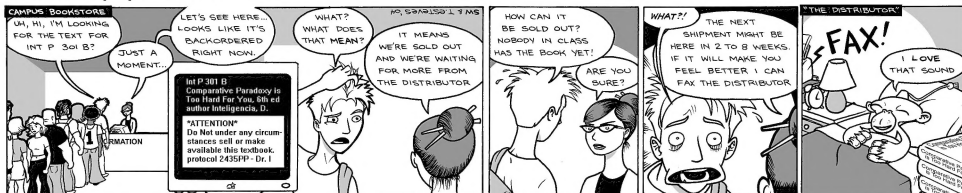
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